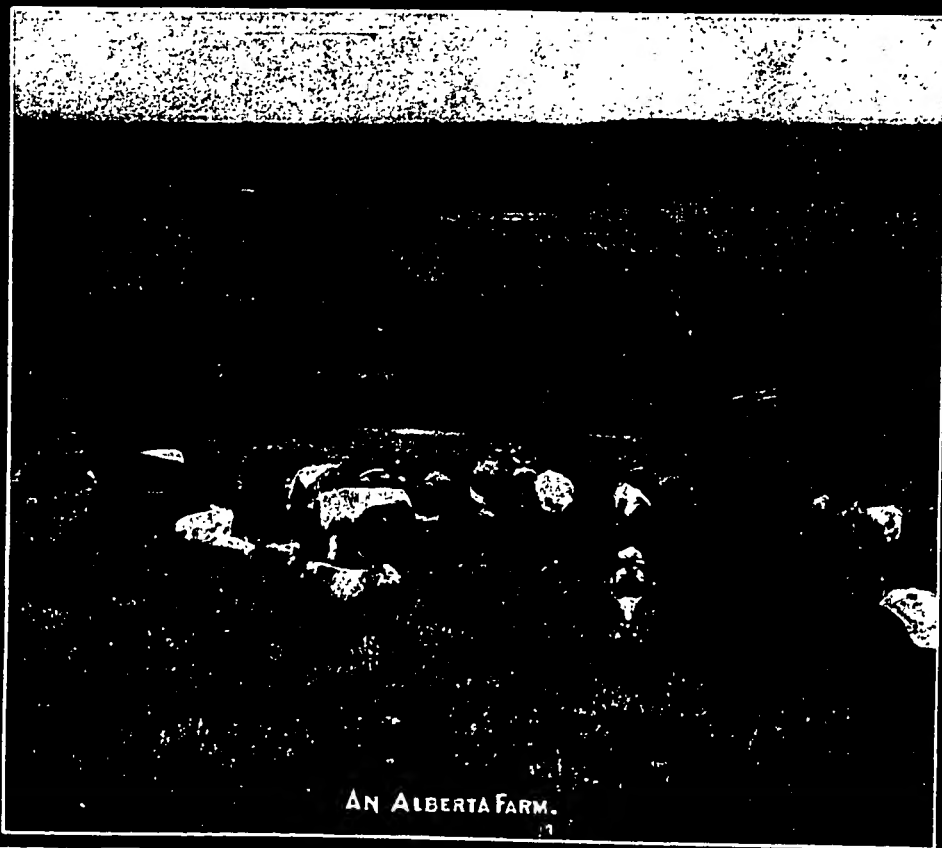


# ALBERTA

## THE GREAT NORTHWEST



AN ALBERTA FARM.

THE NORTH ALBERTA LAND CO. (LTD)  
GENERAL OFFICES-RED DEER, ALBERTA, CANADA  
ST. LOUIS OFFICE - FULLERTON BUILDING.

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# North Alberta Land Co.

(LIMITED)

CAPITAL STOCK, \$50,000.00

REGISTERED OFFICE

*Red Deer, Alberta, Canada*

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# Ranching and Farming

— IN —

# ALBERTA

## THE GREAT NORTHWEST

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GENERAL INFORMATION, ILLUSTRATIONS,  
AND PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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THE  
NORTH ALBERTA LAND CO.

Red Deer, Alberta, Canada



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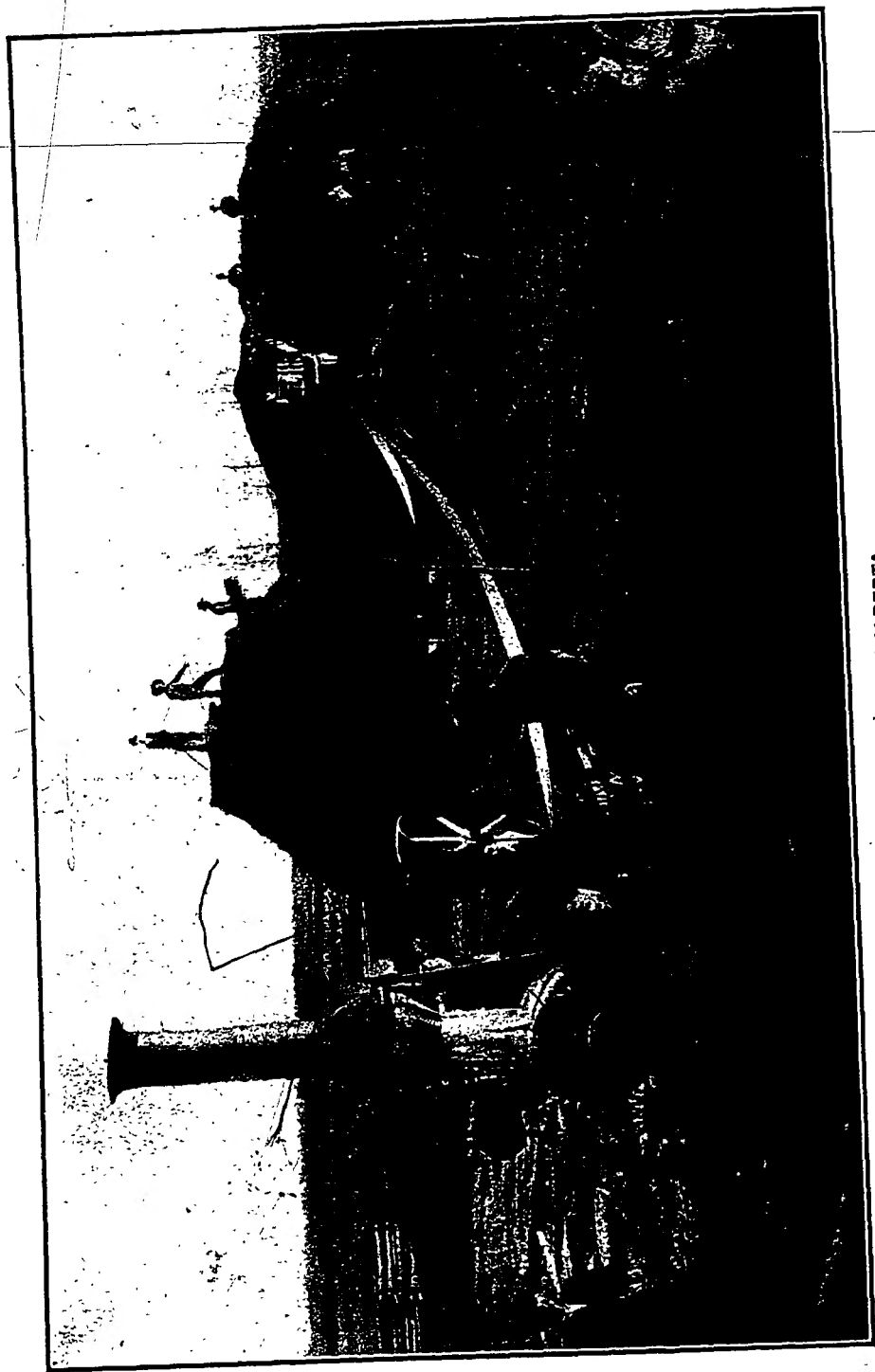
## **THE NORTH ALBERTA LAND CO., Limited** **Red Deer, Alberta, Canada**

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### INTRODUCTION.

Alberta, Assiniboia and Saskatchewan comprise what is commonly known as the Northwest Territories of the Dominion of Canada. This handbook deals with conditions in these territories and especially in Alberta, and is compiled by the North Alberta Land Company (Limited), for the information and benefit of the agricultural classes and other persons who are desirous of investing in cheap farm lands.

Many farmers in the older settled countries, both in America and Europe, realize that their present holdings are not sufficient to furnish their children with suitable homes, and values are so high that the purchase of neighboring lands cannot be effected without putting a mortgage on the future industry and energy of themselves and their children. This condition is now especially manifested in the United States, where that portion of the public domain, suitable, in its natural condition for agricultural purposes, has been practically exhausted. Therefore farmers of foresight, who are anxious for their children to continue in the honorable and independent business of farming or ranching, realize that they must look elsewhere for cheaper agricultural and grazing lands. Unquestionably the Northwest Territories of Canada afford to such men the most inviting field on the American continent. It is true that there is a great deal of unoccupied land in the Southern portion of the United States which is of rich soil, but the bulk of it is covered with a heavy growth of timber. The preparation of this land for agricultural purposes will require a great deal of time and the expenditure of twenty or thirty dollars an acre. Besides the richest portion of it is what is known as "swamp land," and can only be drained at great cost. In the Western portion of the United States there is a large area which in its present condition is a desert. In fact, it is known as the "Great American Desert." This land can never be successfully farmed or grazed until it is irrigated. The problem



THRESHING IN ALBERTA.

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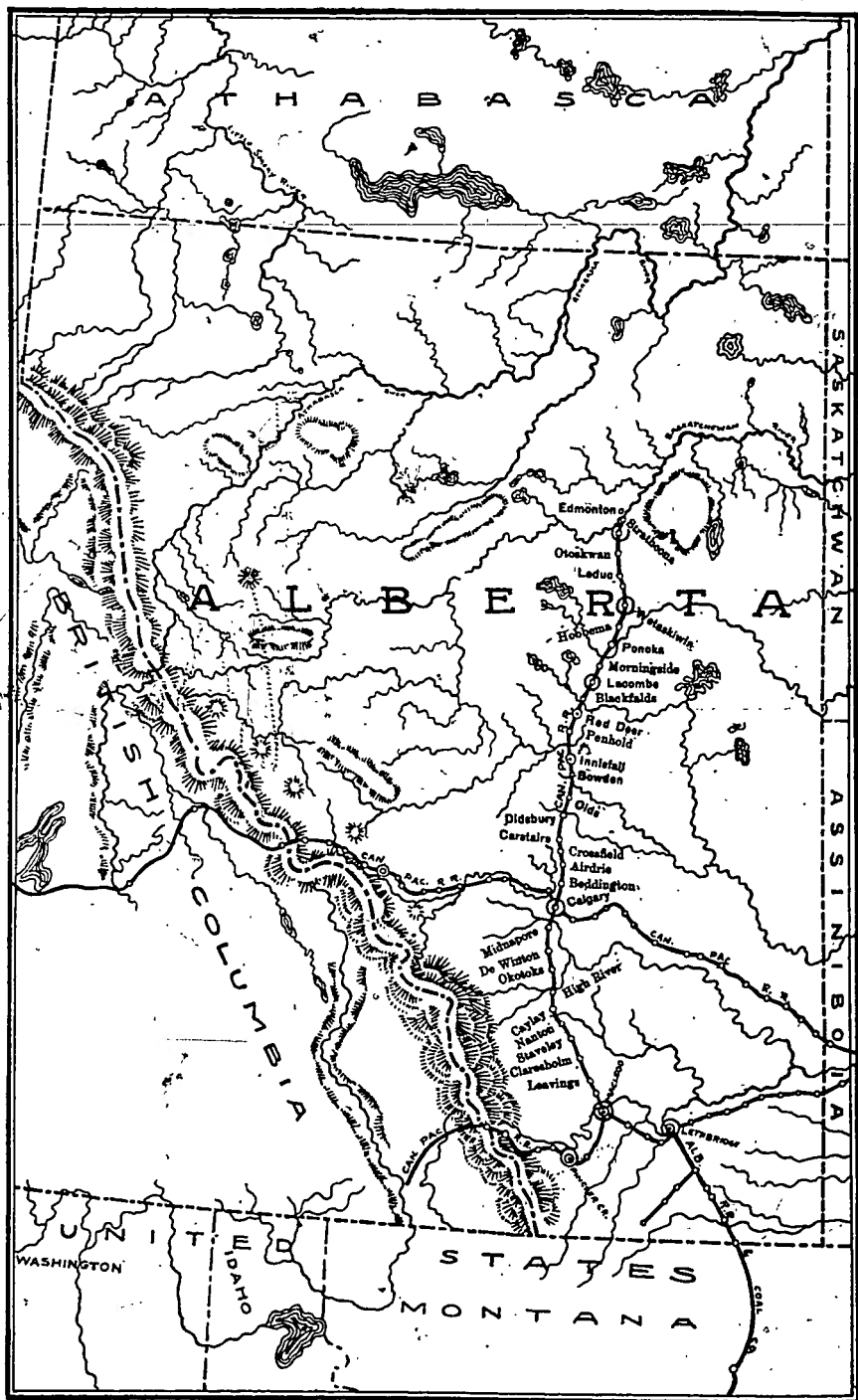
### **Red Deer, Alberta, Canada**

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of irrigation will some day be worked out—but when? The farmer of to-day cannot wait for the solution. He must secure cheap lands, that, in their natural condition, are ready for the plow, lands that need not be cleared of the timber, or drained, or irrigated.

The Northwest Territories of Canada have passed the experimental stage. The pioneer went there twenty years ago when the country was without railroads, and when the trapper was the only inhabitant. In a limited and primitive way he has demonstrated, beyond successful contradiction, that the great bulk of the land is capable of producing extraordinary yields of wheat, oats, barley, timothy, potatoes, cabbages, turnips and all other hardy vegetables. He has also demonstrated that it is as good a country for breeding and maturing cattle and horses as there is on the globe. The grasses are unsurpassed, the water is pure and plentiful, the country is underlaid with limestone, and the altitude is from 2000 to 3000 feet above the sea level, which insures a dry and salubrious atmosphere. The experienced stock man will know that, under such conditions, the horse can be bred to the highest state of perfection. And he will also know that the same conditions will produce cattle of the highest grade.

The settlement of Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas and Minnesota in the United States and Manitoba in Central Canada, prevented the outside world from hearing or learning much of the Northwest Territories. It is only of late that the country has been talked of, and people are just beginning to realize its great possibilities. The tide of immigration has now turned to it, and its future growth and settlement will be marvelous. For the next fifteen or twenty years its increase in population and material wealth will beat the records made by the Western States and Territories of the Union. The Northwest Territories contain about two hundred and ninety thousand square miles of land, which almost equals the combined areas of the States of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. This vast domain is capable of supporting a dense population, and when its natural advantages become generally known in Europe and America, those countries will send a stream of immigrants seeking free homes and cheap lands in this wonderfully rich country.





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### **FARMING AND RANCHING IN ALBERTA.**

This pamphlet will deal chiefly with the agricultural resources of Alberta, but it is appropriate that something should be said concerning the Canadian System of Government, of the religions of the country, of its educational facilities and of its commercial and manufacturing interests. These things must be considered and will have weight with a thinking person in determining the desirability of the country as a permanent place of residence or for investment.

### **SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.**

The prime object of all government is, or ought to be, the protection of the citizen in his life, liberty and property, and in the free exercise of his religious opinions, and these should be attained with the least possible pecuniary burden to him and the least official interference with his daily life. It has been truly said, "That a people is best governed when least governed." This truism is remarkably exemplified in the conditions prevailing in the Northwest Territories.

The Government of Canada is Federal. By the British North American Act the Executive Government of Canada is vested in the Governor General. The Provinces have local legislatures. The country is self-governing as to all local matters and is self-sustaining, and is not called on to pay any taxes to Great Britain, nor is it compelled to furnish soldiers to the mother country. There is no standing army. There is a Dominion Parliament consisting of an Upper House, styled the Senate (81 members) and the House of Commons (213 members). The Governor-General, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, appoints the Senators for life. The members of the House of Commons are elected for a term of five years. All residents of full age may vote for members of the Federal Parliament and the Provincial Legislatures. There is a municipal system in the provinces by which municipal councils elected by the people legislate on matters of local concern. The tenor of all

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legislation is to give to the people complete freedom in the management of local matters.

The Canadian naturalization laws are liberal. Foreigners may transact any kind of business and may hold real estate. Before the Government will issue a patent to a foreigner for a homestead, he must be naturalized, which can be done by residing three years in the country and taking the oath of allegiance.

### **TAXATION.**

There is no tax on personal property in the Northwest Territories. The expensive system of county organizations has never been adopted. The public roads are worked by the Government, and for this purpose districts are organized under what is known as "The Local Improvement Ordinance," and a tax of from \$2.00 to \$2.50 on each quarter section of land in the district is levied for road purposes. The only other tax levied is that for schools. The entire tax rarely exceeds \$7.00 or \$8.00 per quarter section.

### **EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.**

The school system is claimed to be inferior to none. The school houses are about three miles apart, and school districts are established and a house built where there are ten children of the school age residents of the district. An average attendance of six pupils will entitle a school to the annual grant by the Government. Whenever it becomes necessary to build a school house the land of the district is assessed at from two to five dollars per quarter and afterwards the school is maintained by the annual grant of the Government, and a small tax on the land. None but skilled teachers are employed. They are required to stand a rigid examination and must obtain certificates from the proper authorities. Ordinary branches are taught in the country schools and in the cities pupils are prepared for entering college. There are two sections of land in each township set apart for the benefit of the public schools. The schools are non-sectarian, and during regular school hours religion is not taught; if desired hours are set apart for religious instruction.

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### RELIGION.

There is no State church in Canada. All denominations are represented and the utmost religious liberty prevails. There are no tithes. The observance of the Sabbath is particularly noticeable.

### CANADIAN MONEY.

A decimal currency has been adopted in Canada. The chartered banks issue notes. The banks have branches in different parts of the country. The notes are a first charge on the assets of the bank. The branch system of banking has many advantages. By this system funds may be transferred by the parent offices from one section of the country to another whenever the exigencies of business demand it. The principal banks are strong institutions. Their paid capital is from \$5,000,000 to \$12,000,000 with a surplus of equal or greater amounts.

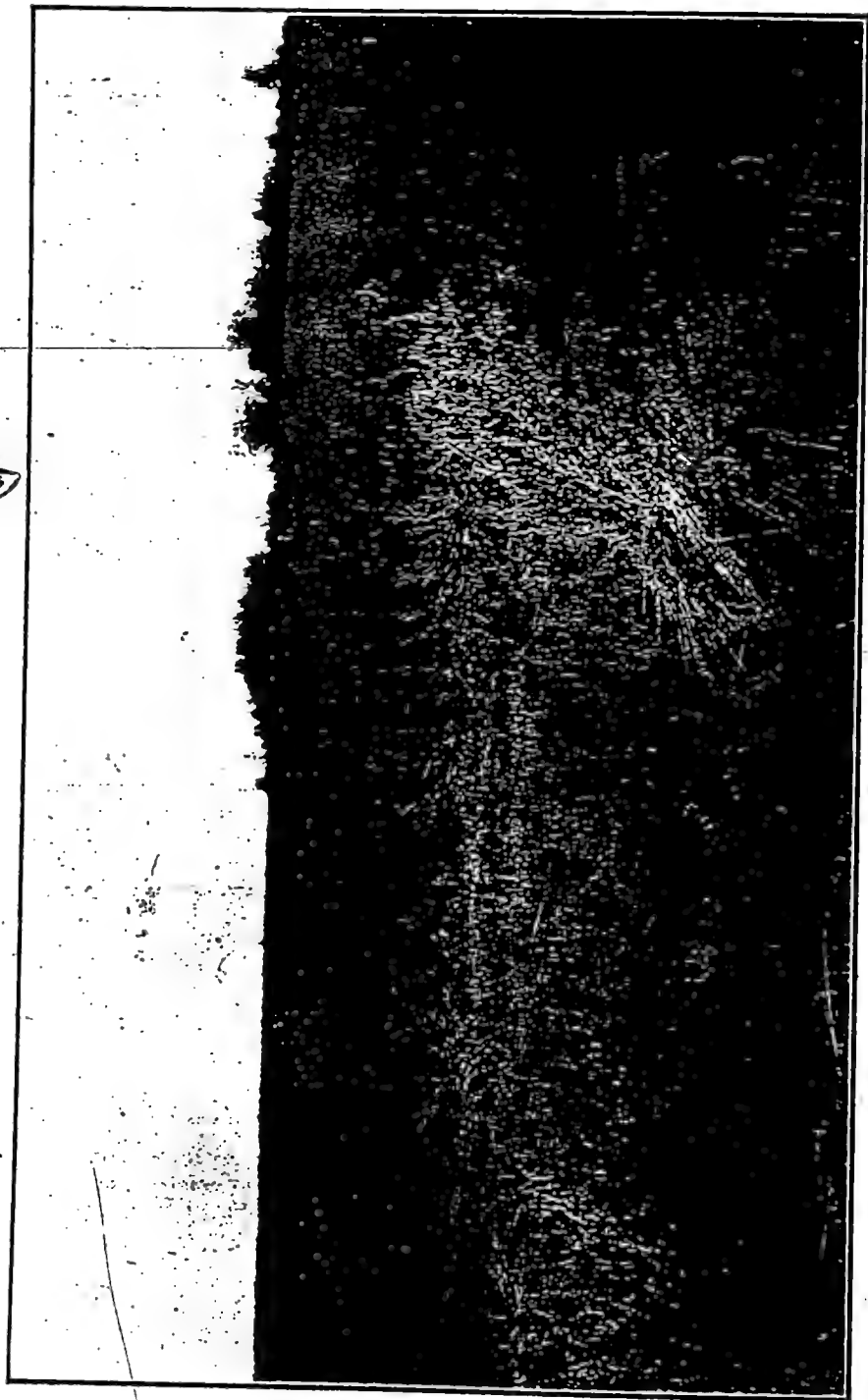
### RAILWAYS.

Considering the population, Canada's railway mileage is greater than any other country. In 1902 it had 19,000 miles of railway track. The Canadian Pacific Railway extends from St. John to Montreal and from thence across the continent to Vancouver on the Pacific Coast. There are over four hundred stations on this line of road. It has many branch roads, and the whole system has a mileage of 7,434 miles. Running in connection with this road are steamship lines from England to Canada and from Canada to Japan and China.

The Grand Trunk Railway extends from Portland in the State of Maine through Ontario to Sarisia and thence to the City of Chicago. It has many branches in Ontario and has a mileage of 3,142 miles.

The Canadian Northern Railway is being built from Winnipeg in a northwesterly direction toward the Pacific Coast. It is the intention of the company to extend its line east from Winnipeg to the Atlantic. In 1903 the company was operating upwards of 1,400 miles of road. It is now being extended to Edmonton, which will be reached this year.

The Grand Pacific Railway is another transcontinental road which



AN OAT FIELD IN ALBERTA.

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is located to the North of the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian Northern. It is expected that this road will be completed from ocean to ocean before 1909.

### **STEAMSHIP LINES.**

There are several transatlantic steamship lines on the Atlantic, to-wit: The Allan Line, the Dominion Line, the Canadian Pacific Line, and several lines of freight steamers. On the Pacific Coast the Canadian Pacific steamers run to China, Australia and Japan, and other lines between British Columbia ports and Alaska. Besides there are many lines of steamers on the rivers and great lakes.

### **CANALS.**

In Eastern Canada there are many canals connecting the great lakes and at other places where rapids obstruct the navigation of the rivers.

### **TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.**

In 1902 there were 35,972 miles of telegraph line in Canada. The telephone has been extended through the settled portions. In many places the farmers unite in a co-operative telephone service. In 1902 there were 15,362 miles of line.

### **POST OFFICES.**

In 1902 there were 9,958 post offices in Canada; there were 938 Government and Post Office savings banks with 211,762 depositors, and the deposits amounted to \$58,438,188. In 1898 a postal rate of two cents per half ounce was established.

### **MANUFACTURING.**

Canada is destined to become a great industrial and commercial country. Within the past decade the growth of all manufacturing has been marvelous and the growth will be maintained indefinitely. The products of the soil foster many industries such as flour mills, oatmeal mills, canneries, dress meat establishments and cheese and butter factories. The extensive Canadian forests have furnished

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and to a greater extent in the future will furnish the world the greatest supply of lumber and other building materials and other wood products for the manufacture of furniture, vehicles and farming implements. Besides the manufacturer of paper must, in the future, look to the immense forests of Canadian spruce for his chief supply of wood pulp.

The canning of fish is another great industry. Eighty thousand men are now employed in the business. This great and profitable industry is bound to increase; for Canada has an extensive sea coast and has within her borders almost one-half of the fresh water of the world.

There are many industries connected with the mining interests of the country. The low cost of iron ore and cheap coal make it possible for the manufacturers of steel to produce that product as cheaply as the great plants in the United States. A great deal of capital is invested in this business in Nova Scotia and on Lake Superior. There are many rolling mills, foundries and other plants for the manufacture of agricultural implements and all kinds of machinery. The business of manufacturing is yet in its infancy, but it will grow as the country grows, and the extent of its growth will surprise the world. In considering the future of manufacturing in Canada, its immense water power must not be overlooked. It is estimated that the river St. Lawrence and Niagara Falls alone put over fifteen millions horse power at the disposal of Canadian manufacturers.

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### **RANCHING IN ALBERTA.**

The beginning of ranching in Alberta and its subsequent developments are subjects of interest. Ranching had its beginning near the present site of the City of McLeod in Southern Alberta. A squad of Mounted Police arrived there in 1873 and they brought with them two cows and several yoke of oxen. Then I. G. Baker & Company of Montana brought into the Territory a few steers to supply the police with beef. In 1876 one J. B. Smith brought from Montana about twenty-five head of breeding cattle, consisting of cows and calves. In the following winter these cattle were turned loose on the range without shelter. They passed through the winter in good condition and without loss. The following year McFarlane and Ling established the first ranch near the police fort and brought with them a small bunch of cattle. In 1878 the Indian Department imported into the country 800 head of cattle. In 1881 the Waldron Ranch was established. Then came the Cochrane Ranch, the Oxley Ranch, the Circle Ranch and many others. This data is gathered from a paper written by Mr. Mathews, Secretary of the Western Stock Growers' Association, and published in a pamphlet entitled "Ranching in the Canadian Northwest." Continuing the writer said: "The range business was fairly on the boom and from that time until to-day it has steadily grown from a doubtful experiment to a substantial, evenly-balanced industry. . . . Conditions have materially changed, and new and improved methods have arisen; the old happy-go-lucky style of running things has given way to careful, businesslike management, with all necessary working expenses calculated to a nicety. This means that with an ordinary year—that is, with a year that is not especially prolific in bad weather—the profits of a well-managed ranch are large; so large, that few businesses in the Dominion of Canada, even in the British Empire, can equal the ranching business as a profitable investment. Contrast the humble origin with the really immense interests to-day, and then try to realize that only twenty-five years have intervened! It is a remarkable progress. Last year, according to Government statistics, over 60,000 head of beef cattle were exported, to which may be added the number used in supplying the

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Indian contracts and in local consumption. Twenty-five years ago the whole cattle industry of the Territories was represented by twenty-five head.

"It has been shown that there are some 195 million acres, over 300,000 square miles, of land available for grazing in the Canadian Northwest Territories, an area six times as great as the estimated combined grazing area of all the eastern United States. On this enormous extent of country about 200,000 sheep and less than 600,000 head of horses and cattle are at present pastured. Almost every acre of this land will sustain live stock, winter and summer, and the great bulk of it belongs to the most fertile virgin prairie in the world. Millions upon millions of acres of the most nutritious grasses cure on the stem and rot in due course, year after year, without fulfilling their natural mission of furnishing feed for live stock. It seems hopeless to attempt to grasp the possibilities of a two hundred million acre ranch, at present practically unstocked or only stocked at the rate of about one head of cattle, horse or sheep for each two hundred and fifty acres.

"To the excellence of the Canadian Northwest as a grazing country, no higher tribute can be paid than the statement that all cattle and sheep now exported are consigned direct to their final destination, no grain finishing process being absolutely necessary to fit our range beef and mutton for consumption. Here is where our nutritious prairie grasses, pure and abundant natural water supply and healthy and invigorating climate, make their influences felt."

The stockman who visits Alberta will be surprised to find cattle of a very high grade. The long-horned steer is of the past. The Durham, Hereford and Pole Angus have taken his place. As a rule the ranch owners are using none but thoroughbred bulls and have been for the past decade and they are particular to exclude from their herds all strains not suitable for beef. They have to-day better grades of cattle than are generally found on the farms in the United States and under the policy adopted they will soon produce the perfect beef steer.

The rancher has also learned that while weak cows and calves will live on the range during the winter without shelter and with



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but little hay, it is profitable to provide shelter and ample food for them. And they have also abandoned the old plan of letting the bulls run with the herd during the entire year. They now keep the bulls within separate enclosures during the fall and winter months, thus insuring the dropping of calves at the proper time. This also enables the rancher to look more carefully after his cows during the calving time, thereby greatly reducing the percentage of loss.

It is supposed by many cattle men that "prime beef," that is steers suitable for export, can only be produced by feeding corn. This idea is clearly refuted by the experiences of the cattle raisers in the Northwest Territories. Heretofore cattle have, as a general rule, been sold or shipped off the grass in the fall and many of them have been shipped abroad. This has been exceedingly profitable, so much so that the owners did not realize how much more they could make by feeding their steers with grain in the winter, thereby fitting them for the spring or early summer markets, when beef is much higher than in the fall months. The old policy will not be followed any longer and many farmers are now "stall-feeding" their steers and are doing so with great success. The lack of corn in the Territories is not a great drawback to maturing first-class beef, for the fattening qualities of oats and barley equal that of corn. The average yield of corn in Kansas (which is the greatest corn producing State of the Union), for the past ten years has been 19.71 bushels per acre or 1104 pounds. The general average of oats in the Northwest Territories for the last five years (which is as far back as crop reports go) is 35.30 bushels per acre or 1190 pounds. For the same time the yield of barley has been 25.60 bushels or 1229 pounds. Hence there can be no foundation for the assumption that it is impossible to mature first-class grain-fed beef in the Northwest Territories. This can be accomplished as well and with much less expense than in the "corn belt" of the United States.

There is now a good market for beef and mutton in Canada, and it will certainly be better in the future. Great Britain will take all the surplus beef and mutton that Canada will produce. The United Kingdom imports annually a million tons of meat, of which 45

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per cent comes from the United States. In the latter country the home consumption is increasing rapidly, and with but little (if any) increase in production. It will be but a few years when the exportation of meat from the United States will cease. When this happens the Mother Country will have to look chiefly to Canada for its supply of meat. In addition there is at present a great demand for the beef of the Territories in British Columbia and the Yukon country. Three year old steers sell off the grass in the fall from \$40.00 to \$50.00. When they have been fed on native hay during the winter they sell in the spring from \$55.00 to \$65.00. These prices show the enormous profits realized by the industrious and experienced ranchman, for a steer that sells for \$40.00 or \$50.00 only costs from \$10.00 to \$15.00.

#### **FEED.**

The lands of Alberta are not excelled for grazing in any known country. The altitude is about 3000 feet. There is an abundance of pure water in the streams and lakes and flowing from innumerable springs. The soil is of a rich vegetable mould varying from one to two feet and a half in depth and having a clay or sandy subsoil, chiefly the former. Substantially all of the land has a clay subsoil and its fertility is shown everywhere in rank vegetation, consisting of native hay of superior quality, and all kinds of grasses, pea vines, vetches, etc. The grasses are not spoiled by rains or snows, but during the long days of sunshine in September, October and November, they cure on the stem, retaining all their nutritive properties. When there is no snow, the range grasses furnish ample food for cattle and horses during the winter months. It is not unusual for cattle on the range to live and take on flesh for three-fourths of the winter months. Last winter the ranchers and farmers fed but little hay until the 1st of February. By the first of April the snow was gone in Southern Alberta, and by the 15th of April there was none in North Alberta and the cattle were getting their living from the range.

#### **HAY.**

In the ranching country there is usually found an adequate supply

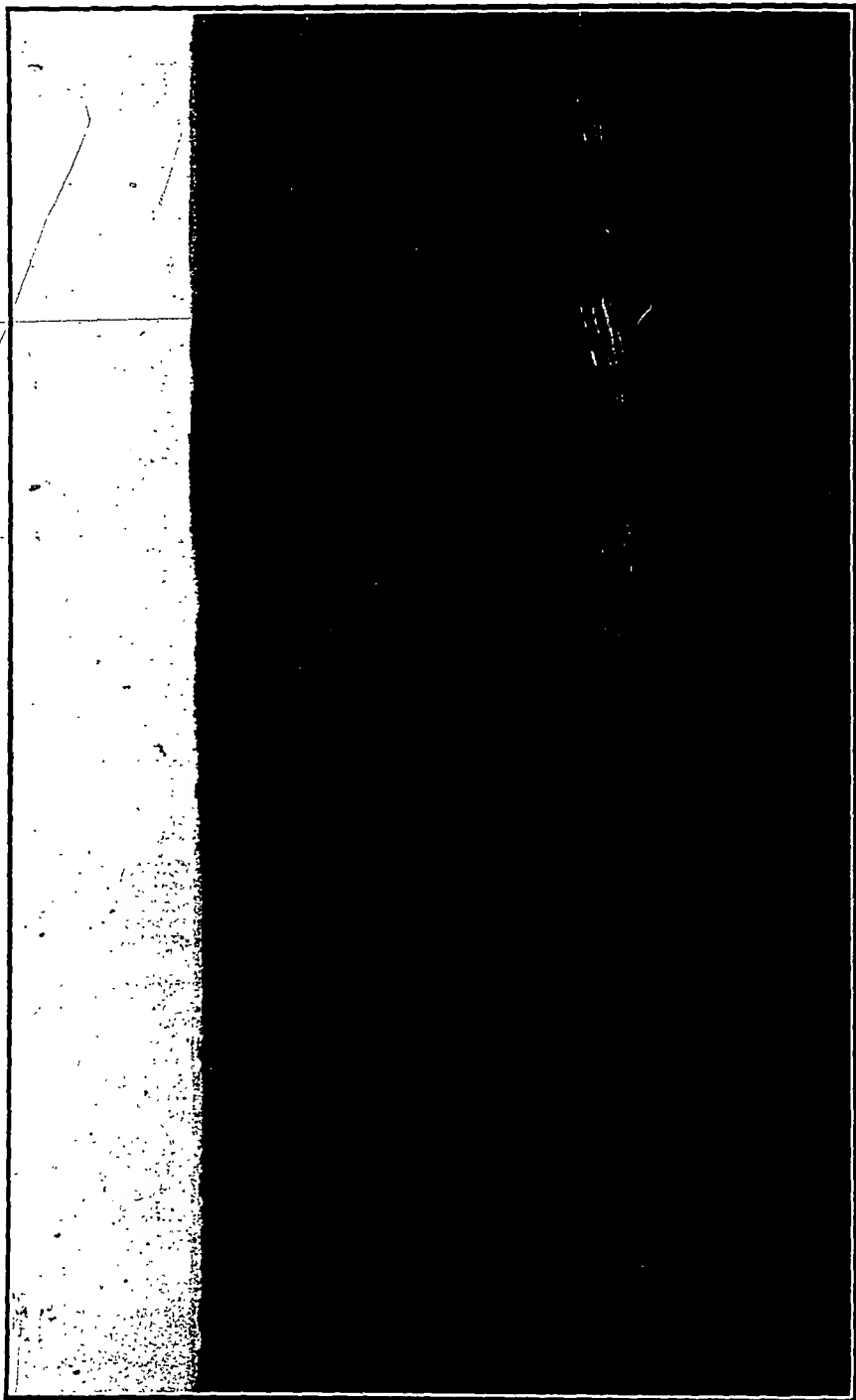
## **THE NORTH ALBERTA LAND CO., Limited** **Red Deer, Alberta, Canada**

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of native hay which grows luxuriantly in the valleys and sloughs. The ridges or highlands also furnish a good quality of hay, but not in such quantities. The hay is of superior quality and to a limited extent is being used in fattening cattle for the early spring market. Of course cattle thus fed are not as good as beesves fed on grain, but it is a matter of astonishment to a stranger (who has had experience elsewhere in feeding cattle) that a fat steer off the grass can be materially increased in weight by feeding hay only: -

### **LOSSES.**

The percentage of losses in breeding cattle depends upon many things. Climatic conditions, quantity and quality of food, and the degree of care exercised by the individual ranchman are the controlling factors. In Alberta the increase of cattle has been about 75 per cent of the breeding stock, and experience proves that the losses will not exceed an average of five per cent. This showing is remarkable, and it is attributed chiefly to natural conditions, and not to extra care, for many ranchmen provide no shelter for their cattle, not even their calves and weak cows. Blizzards are unknown in Alberta. They originate to the East and Southeast, and where they prevail they cause the greater portion of the losses of live stock. Alberta on account of its latitude and altitude necessarily experience spells of weather that are intensely cold, but usually unaccompanied by wind. The extreme cold is generally of short duration. After a few days the warm winds come from the West and Southwest, creating immediately a decided change in the temperature. Alberta has for its western boundary the Rocky Mountains, which at Calgary are one mile lower than at Denver, and are some eight hundred miles nearer the Pacific Coast. The Crow's Nest pass in Southern Alberta and the Peace River pass in Northern Alberta are only about 2500 or 3000 feet above sea level, and these low depressions admit into the country the Chinook and Japan winds. These warm winds have a remarkable effect on the snow. It quickly melts, or rather evaporates, leaving no mud and but little moisture. Alberta has an area of 106,000 square miles which equals the combined areas of Missouri and Oklahoma.



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### **BREEDING THOROUGHBRED CATTLE.**

The breeding of thoroughbred cattle in Alberta has been conducted on a limited scale. Now and in the future thousands of pure bred bulls will be needed to meet the natural increase of breeding stock. It is probable that under present conditions about 95 per cent of the number required will have to be imported. This will not continue, for the large demand and the prevalent high prices for thoroughbred bulls and cows will stimulate home breeding. The results of annual sales of pure bred cattle at Calgary have shown resident cattle men that, at prevailing prices, the breeding of such animals can be made an exceedingly profitable business.

### **HORSES.**

Where natural conditions are favorable there is no more delightful and profitable occupation than the breeding of horses. The conditions for this business are most favorable in Alberta. It seems to be the natural home of the horse. The soil is good and grows all kinds of hay and grass of the best quality. The climate is dry and invigorating. There is an abundance of pure water and the whole country is underlaid with limestone. Wherever these conditions prevail the perfect horse is produced. There is a decided change taking place in the plan of breeding horses. In the past the herds have been large, which has made it impracticable to properly break and train the animals. Now men of foresight realize that it will be more profitable to raise fewer horses of better breeds, and not to put them on the market until thoroughly broken. In this way the raising of horses can be conducted by the average farmer, and as it costs practically nothing to produce the horse, the profits will be very large.

Well bred horses have at all times commanded good prices, while the prices of inferior animals have at all times been quite low, thus proving that it will always pay to raise high grade animals, and that the breeding of the "scrub" is unprofitable and unsatisfactory.

In Alberta the English Shire, the Clydesdale and the Percheron stallions are the most numerous and there are some standard bred (trotting) stallions from the United States. For draft horses

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Manitoba, British Columbia and the Northern portion of Alberta furnish the chief markets. Three-quarter bred Clydes, Percherons and Shires sell from \$100.00 to \$200.00, and light saddlers or drivers from \$75.00 to \$250.00.

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## **FARMING IN ALBERTA.**

Alberta is destined to become a great agricultural country. In that portion lying to the north of Calgary and extending 100 miles north of Edmonton, all the natural conditions exist which are necessary to produce this result. The soil of this section is unsurpassed in fertility by any territory of equal size on the American continent or perhaps in the world. The soil is mostly a black sandy vegetable mould from one to two and a half feet deep, having a clay sub-soil. In some locations (of small extent), the sub-soil is sandy, but the top soil is unsurpassed in production when there is the usual amount of rainfall. The precipitation in this district about equals that of Northeast Missouri or Southeast Iowa. This section

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includes the extensive and fertile valleys of the Red Deer, Battle, Vermillion and Saskatchewan rivers. It is well watered by these streams and their tributaries. Besides there are innumerable lakes and springs and living water is found everywhere at a depth of from 15 to 40 feet. The land is mostly prairie, interspersed with groves of timber, which is suitable for fencing and building materials, and also will furnish adequate fuel for all time. Besides there are immense deposits of bituminous and lignite coal, and anthracite has been discovered and is now mined a short distance west of Calgary.

Almost every acre of this vast domain is capable of producing good crops, and if there are good and convenient markets for farm products then the country is certainly worthy of the attention and investigation of farmers seeking new locations or capitalists seeking safe and remunerative investments.

### **WHEAT.**

In North Alberta wheat was first grown at Edmonton, about fifty years ago. At that time and for many years afterwards Edmonton was a Hudson Bay Station. Unquestionably the soil of North Alberta contains in a marked degree all the properties necessary to produce first-class wheat and of large yields. That has been demonstrated so thoroughly that it is beyond dispute. The spring wheat (No. 1 hard) that was awarded first prize at the Chicago and Paris Expositions, was grown near the town of Red Deer in North Alberta. The yield of spring wheat has been from 20 to 50 bushels per acre. There are no chinch bugs, army worms, grasshoppers or Hessian flies. The hazard attending the growing of spring wheat is an early freeze coming before the berry fully matures. This renders the crop unmarketable and it is only fit for feed. The experiments in raising fall wheat, which were begun only two or three years since, have been eminently satisfactory. The yield has been from 20 to 40 bushels and the grain of good quality. It matures much earlier than spring wheat, thus escaping destruction by the early frosts. Wheat finds ready sale at from forty to sixty-five cents per bushel.

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#### **OATS.**

The growing of oats in North Alberta is the boast and pride of the country. The yields are extraordinary and the weights unprecedented. There are many farmers who have grown 100 bushels to the acre, and there are records (which can be verified) of 135 bushels weighing as high as 52 pounds to the measured bushel. Yields of 75 and 80 bushels are quite common. The average for the district is lower, but the enormous yields demonstrate what the results of first-class farming would be. It must be remembered that it is a new country and that farming operations are, as a rule, conducted in a very primitive way. Oats sell from 18 to 40 cents per bushel.

#### **BARLEY.**

Barley is also a very profitable crop and is grown with great success. The yield is from 25 to 60 bushels per acre and generally of excellent quality. It sells from 30 to 65 cents per bushel. There is more profit in feeding it to horses, cattle and hogs. No kind of food will fatten such animals faster than ground barley.

#### **DAIRYING.**

Dairying is an important feature of farming in North Alberta. The difficulties encountered by the individual butter maker in making butter and finding a steady market has been overcome by the Dominion Government. The co-operative system, which has made butter and cheese-making in Denmark so remunerative, has been adopted in the Northwest Territories. Creameries and cheese factories have been built by the Dominion Government in all of the towns on the railroads and throughout the settled portions of the country where the necessity for them exists, and while the business affairs are controlled by the patrons through boards of directors, the making of butter is under the absolute management of experts appointed by the Dominion Government. Generally the patron separates the cream from the milk at his home and the cream is taken to the creamery, where it is weighed and tested, and at the end of the month he gets credit for its equivalent in butter and receives a cash



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advance of ten cents per pound. When the entire product of the season is sold each patron receives from the Department of Agriculture a check for the balance due him on his butter account. The Government charges 4 cents per pound for manufacturing and one cent per pound is set apart for a fund to pay to the Government the original cost of the creamery, and when a sufficient amount is thus realized the creamery becomes the property of the patrons. In this business a farmer can make from \$20.00 to \$35.00 from each cow, besides raise a calf. This monthly income is often sufficient to pay the current expenses of the farmer.

### **HOGS.**

The oat and barley crop and the milk from the dairy make the breeding and fattening of hogs profitable. This has been clearly demonstrated in the Edmonton District, where the bulk of the hogs are produced. The business in other portions is limited, but wherever tried has proved successful.

### **TIMOTHY.**

The success attending the production of timothy in North Alberta is remarkable. The soil seems to be especially adapted to its growth. Generally the meadows are free of weeds. The yield is from 1½ to 2½ tons to the acre. The average would probably be two tons. Baled timothy delivered on the cars is worth from \$9.00 to \$13.00 per ton. The demand for it comes from the mining districts of British Columbia.

### **BROME GRASS OR HAY.**

What is known as Brome grass is recognized as the best feed for cattle and horses. They will eat it in preference to oats in the sheaf and will thrive on it equally as well. It is put in like timothy and the average yield of hay is about 2½ tons to the acre. The stalk has a large head filled with seed. It is also unexcelled for pasturage. Tests have been made at the experimental farms in the Northwest Territories, and one acre of this grass will sustain two steers and keep them in a thriving condition. The hay sells from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per ton.

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#### **VEGETABLES.**

In Northern latitudes on the American Continent, where good soil is found, the hardier vegetables such as Irish potatoes, turnips, parsnips, carrots, cabbages, onions, lettuce and radishes grow to the greatest perfection. The quantity is not only large, but the quality is unexcelled. No country on the Continent can beat North Alberta in growing all of these vegetables. The potatoes are superior in quality and the yield is from 200 to 700 bushels per acre. The yield of turnips is likewise remarkable often reaching 800 bushels to the acre. Cabbage grows to enormous sizes, and better lettuce, onions and radishes cannot be found.

#### **FRUIT.**

The growth of fruit in North Alberta is yet in the experimental stage. The winters are thought to be too severe for apples and plums, but it is supposed that the hardier varieties of cherries, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries may be produced. The wild strawberry and raspberry are found, which proves that the cultivated varieties may be grown.

#### **POULTRY.**

Poultry is a most profitable industry. Up to the present time the local trade has been so great as to consume the supply. Indeed large shipments from the East have been necessary to supply the local demand. This condition will not last long, as the country is rapidly settling up and every one begins to realize that there is a great deal of money in raising domestic fowls. Chickens sell from 12½ to 20 cents per pound; and eggs sell from 12½ cents to 35 cents per dozen.

#### **GAME.**

On account of the game laws, which are well observed, there is an abundance of game in North Alberta. It is the breeding ground of the duck, the wild goose and snipe. What is known in the United States as the prairie chicken is the most plentiful game bird, and partridges, or what is known in the Western States as pheasants, are very numerous in the timbered districts. There are also a few

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deer and bear; and the moose and caribou are found in the foot hills near the mountains, and in the extreme Northern districts. Ducks may be killed after the 20th day of August, and prairie chickens and partridges after the 15th of September. Geese may be killed at any time.

### **FISH.**

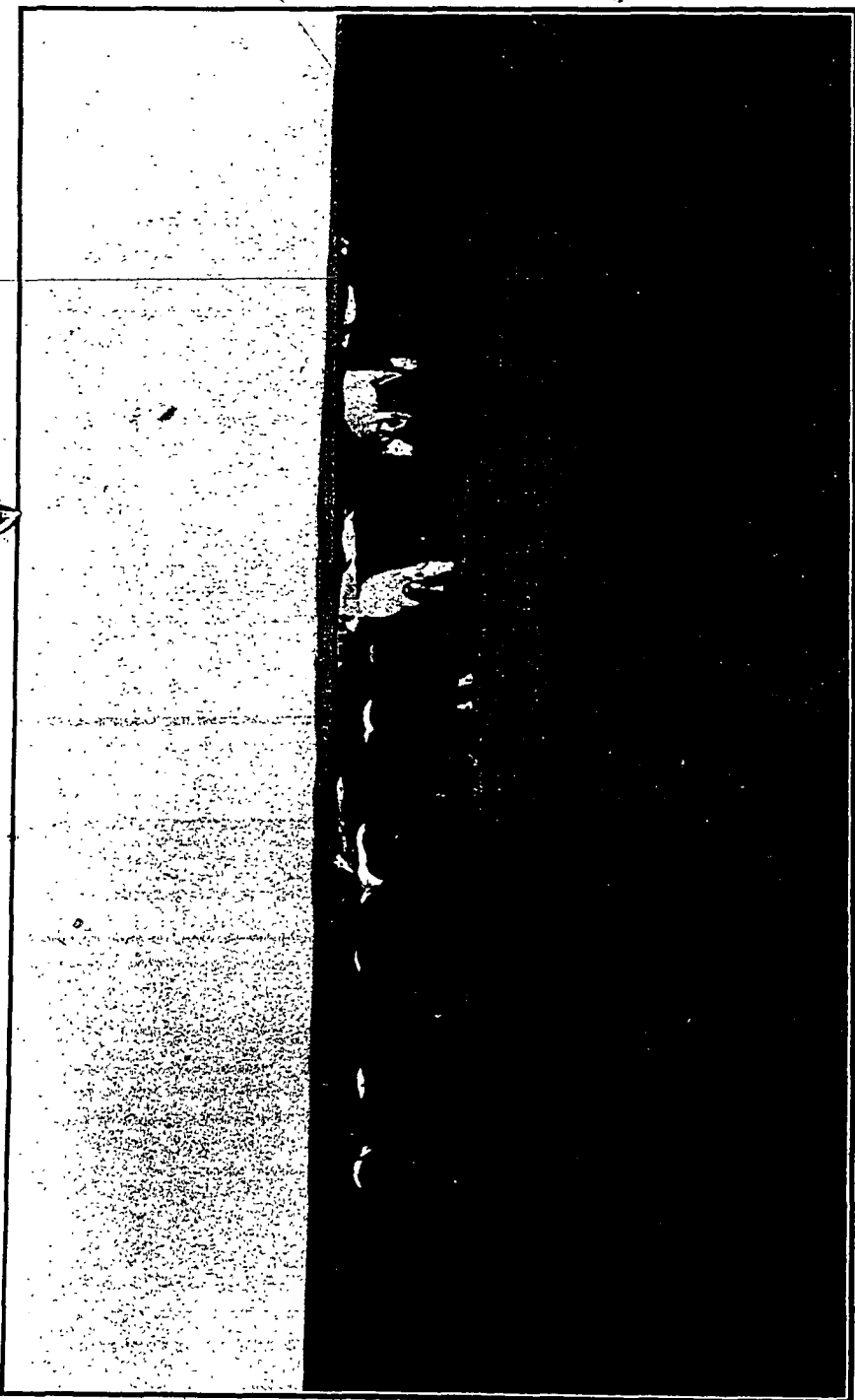
The streams and many of the lakes are well stocked with fish. Among the many varieties are the white fish, pickerel, catfish, river trout and pike. In the mountain streams to the west the brook trout fishing is excellent.

### **SANITARY CONDITIONS.**

On account of the altitude and the low mean temperature it is impossible for malaria to exist. The climate is invigorating to both adults and children. Typhoid fever is rare. Many persons predisposed to consumption or afflicted with asthma or throat troubles are greatly benefited by the climate.

### **GOOD ORDER.**

Nothing strikes the man from the States so forcibly as the good order that prevails everywhere and among all classes. Although there is not a sheriff between Calgary and Edmonton, there is peace and a proper observance of the law, for a person who is inclined to violate the criminal law knows that an offense of the kind will be visited with certain, swift and severe punishment. The suppression of lawlessness and the apprehension of criminals is entrusted to the Mounted Police, and it is the boast of this extraordinary body of men that no murderer has ever escaped from Northwest Canada, and that but few cattle and horse thieves have gone unpunished. The Northwest Territories is no place for the "bad man" found on the frontier in the states, who frequently indulges in the diversion of "shooting up" a town and otherwise intimidating peaceable persons. A prank of that sort practiced in Alberta would surely put the offender behind the prison bars. To the law-abiding man such conditions count for much. He feels that his life and property are reasonably safe.



RANCHING SCENE IN ALBERTA.

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### **SOUTHERN ALBERTA.**

That portion of Alberta South of Calgary is also a remarkable country. In many respects it differs essentially from that portion of the territory designated as North Alberta. It is favored with a soil of equal fertility, and it has some advantages as to climate. It is so situated that the warm winds coming over the Crow's Nest pass have an immediate and greater effect on the temperature during the winter months than in North Alberta, thus making it a better natural ranching country. Its disadvantages are scarcity of timber in some locations and in some years an insufficient rainfall during the summer months, thus cutting the crops short and making a scarcity of water. The lack of timber makes the importation of lumber, etc., for building purposes imperative, but the immense coal deposits furnish ample fuel. The disadvantages from droughts are being rapidly overcome by extensive systems of irrigation. The oldest irrigation enterprise is the Calgary Irrigation Company. Its canal heads on the Elbow River and covers all lands capable of irrigation in the Calgary district. About thirty-five miles of the main ditch is completed. Next comes the "Galt Canal." The head of the system is on the St. Mary River in the Rocky Mountains. The main canal is 61 miles long; the Lethbridge branch 32 miles and the Sterling branch 22 miles. The Bow River canal is the latest enterprise. The Canadian Pacific is building it, which insures its completion and maintenance. This ditch will cover millions of acres of lands between Calgary and Medicine Hat.

### **HEALTH.**

Concerning the health of Southern Alberta Dr. Newbourn, a leading physician of the Territories, makes the statement that the light dry atmosphere, the dry soil, the small rainfall, the moderate elevation, the great amount of sunshine, make the country exceedingly healthy. He says that acute lung troubles are rare; that few cases of consumption are developed; that typhoid fever is generally absent, and that infectious diseases readily yield to treatment.

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#### **RAILWAYS.**

The main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway extends west from Winnipeg and enters the Rocky Mountain region at Calgary, and the Calgary and Edmonton branch of the Canadian Pacific extends south from Calgary to Lethbridge, and north from Calgary to Edmonton, a distance of 200 miles. The branch of the Canadian Pacific extends from the main line at Medicine Hat in Assiniboia to Lethbridge, and from Lethbridge the Great Falls and Canada Railway extends to the south as far as the Great Northern Railway in Montana.

#### **WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT NORTHWESTERN CANADA**

Last June (1903) eighteen of the agricultural papers of the United States sent representatives into Northwestern Canada to report on the conditions of the country. Since the return of the editors their papers have published articles concerning Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. The following is from the Orange Judd Farmer (Chicago, Ill.) in its issue of July 25th, 1903:

"The last great body of unoccupied wheat land on this continent

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lies in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories of Canada. In the United States and in Eastern Canada, practically all land available for crop purposes under natural conditions is now under some form of cultivation, but in the territory mentioned there are enormous areas of unoccupied land which are in every way suitable for agricultural exploitation, but which have not yet been reached by the tide of settlement.

"The quality of this wheat is quite as striking as the high rate of yield. The proportion of the highest grade which is secured from the northwestern wheat fields is much larger than the proportion of a similar grade secured in this country. To illustrate, during the year 1902 50.7 per cent of all the wheat officially inspected at Winnipeg graded No. 1 hard, and 30.6 per cent No. 1 northern, making 81 per cent of the total receipts falling within the two highest market grades. During practically the same time only 1 per cent of the receipts at Minnesota were hard and 22 per cent No. 1 northern, or 23 per cent of the total receipts represented the two highest gradings. On account of the high quality of this Canadian wheat it is especially sought for by European millers and commands a considerable premium over American wheat.

"The new settlers who are engaging in wheat growing possess many advantages over the pioneers who started wheat growing in this country. In the first place, their land has a lighter sod, breaks more readily, and is easier kept in good cultivation. In addition to this, the new settlers find railroad development ahead of them, and their crop as soon as it is produced can be placed upon the world's market as readily and practically as cheaply as can wheat produced in the older communities."

Farm and Home, Springfield, Ill., makes this statement:

"In the first place, the machinery of government is in full play, even in the most remote pioneer districts of the Northwest, courts of justice are everywhere established, and the rural police force is sufficient to maintain order and render secure life and property, even at the points of farthest settlement. Provisions are made for the establishment and maintenance of schools under government supervision as rapidly as the population in any particular district requires

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educational facilities. The public service of the Northwest Territories comprises departments having charge of agricultural education, public works, law and finances. Money raised by taxation and supplemented by grants from the general Dominion government is expended for the construction of public works, education, fostering agricultural societies, encouraging of the importation of pure bred stock, agricultural education and experimental station work, as well as all other ordinary functions of government. There is no expensive county organization, a form of government which invariably places severe financial burdens upon limited population of any district. Instead of arbitrary county lines the local government is organized within various areas always in accordance with the needs of population. In return for this governmental care the settler pays taxes upon his land only and that at a very low rate. Each quarter section of land is taxed as a rule from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per year. This covers all taxation except for educational purposes, which, of course, depends on the density of school population. Including school and other tax the taxation rarely comes higher than \$7 to \$8 per section."

The following is taken from *The Farmers' Call*, Quincy, Ill.:

"The prices the settler must pay for the things he buys and the prices he may get for what he will have to sell, are very important matters for him to consider when contemplating buying a home in a country new to him; hence in our recent trip through the Canadian Northwest we gave particular attention to the prices on articles found in the stores and to those paid for farm products. We will confess that we were surprised at the low prices for what a farmer has to buy and at the good prices for what the Canadian farmer has to sell.

"We were treated to a second surprise when we found the prices being paid for farm products. We believe we are safe in saying that the farmer in the Canadian Northwest gets a higher price for his wheat—perhaps two cents per bushel more on the average—than the farmer in the Northwest of the United States in the same longitude. Possibly one reason is in the lower freight rates, though of this we can not speak positively. It is certain that in Canada the railways have more regard for the welfare of the farmer. They have realized that their prosperity must in the long run depend on



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the prosperity of the farmers, that they must look to the development of the country for increased freight both ways; hence we believe the railways in Canada are less disposed 'to charge what the traffic will bear' on farm products, and probably are not disposed to make use of the clever device of lowering freight rates after the grain has mostly left the farmers' hands. There is an abundance of elevators along the railways and it is certain that the settlers have abundant shipping facilities."

In the Wallace Farmer, Des Moines, Iowa, the following appears in its issue dated July 24th, 1903:

"There is perhaps no richer range country in the world than this. The grasses are nutritious, the climate ideal, the Chinook winds, which come through the passes in the mountains 150 to 200 miles distant, tempering the winter in such a way as to make grazing all the year around practical. Indeed, save the calves and old cows, none of the cattle are sheltered at all, and so little snow falls that there is abundant grass all the year around. Not only that, but the grass cures as it stands and makes magnificent feed. This range country extends west clear to the mountains in a radius of about fifty miles north of Medicine Hat, and south to the boundary line. It was the unanimous opinion that the country was better than had been anticipated and that it is rich in promise for the farmer from either Eastern Canada or the United States who wishes to build a home in a new country. Over practically all the district which we have described there are thousands of acres of land subject to homestead, the Dominion Government's homestead laws being similar to our own, allowing each homesteader 160 acres under the usual residence requirements. Adjoining most of the homestead lands are tracts owned by the railroads or land companies, which can be obtained at very moderate prices. It is thus possible in many cases for the settler to obtain a half section or more of good land for a very small investment. It is only a question of time until new branches of railroads and new systems will be built, and instead of having a population of about 700,000 people Western Canada will have many times that number, as there is plenty of land to support and prosper all."

"Some of our readers will ask about the climate. On the whole

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we were quite well pleased with it. The days are the long ones, being able at this time of the year to read a paper at 10 o'clock at night, the sun not setting till 9 o'clock or thereabouts. Thus there is a vast amount of sunshine and crops grow quickly. The days are warm, but the nights cool.

"There is plenty of opportunity for the young man or the middle aged farmer in Western Canada. He must not anticipate, however, that he is going to a bed of ease. No settler in a new country ever has an easy time. He must study the country and adapt himself to its conditions and environments. If he will do this he will be successful from the start and will have land that will raise substantially in value as the years go by. Lands that were bought ten years ago at from \$3 to \$5 in many places are worth from \$20 to \$25 now, and will continue to increase in value."

The following excerpt is taken from an article published in the Farmers' Review, August 26th, 1903:

"The greatest surprise is, perhaps, the dairy system, which is under government control. The government builds the creameries and operates them, charging four cents a pound for making the butter. The milk producers that furnish the milk and cream receive 10 cents per pound for butter made each month, and at the end of the season receive the balance. The summer price of butter at the factory has been 16 cents, and the winter price 20 cents. In the months when the butter sells at 20 cents the patron receives 10 cents per pound at the end of the month and six cents more at the end of the season. The four cents more than pays for the expense of running the creameries and the surplus goes to pay back the money invested by the government. When this money is repaid the surplus will be distributed as dividends to the farmers that make the milk. The results have been most happy. The creameries are models and the quality of the butter high. Over 200,000 pounds were last year exported to Europe. Besides the creameries in operation the government has established stations on the railroads, where cream is received from farmers living too far from the creameries to make hauling the milk profitable. There were 19 of these government creameries in 1901 and more have been erected since. The country is

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admirably adapted for dairying, and it is certain that this industry will become one of the leading ones of the Northwest."

The following is also taken from the Farm and Home, Springfield Illinois: "Forty-five thousand American settlers were taken into the Canadian Northwest during the past year. This is more than half the number that found new homes in our own Northwest from Dakota to the Pacific Coast. This line of emigration is a new feature in our history; heretofore our tide of population has moved westward, but it is evident that for a time at least the current of the wave will be to the Northwest, as that section of the Continent is the only large area of agricultural land available for original settlement."

The Great Falls (Montana) Daily Leader, August 20th, 1903, says:

"The exodus to Canada from the Western States continues. It must not be understood that these people are all from one section; they come from all parts of Montana, from Wyoming and from Idaho. . . . Not all of those, however, who are journeying to the new agricultural Eldorado are going by train. The overland route is as popular as ever."

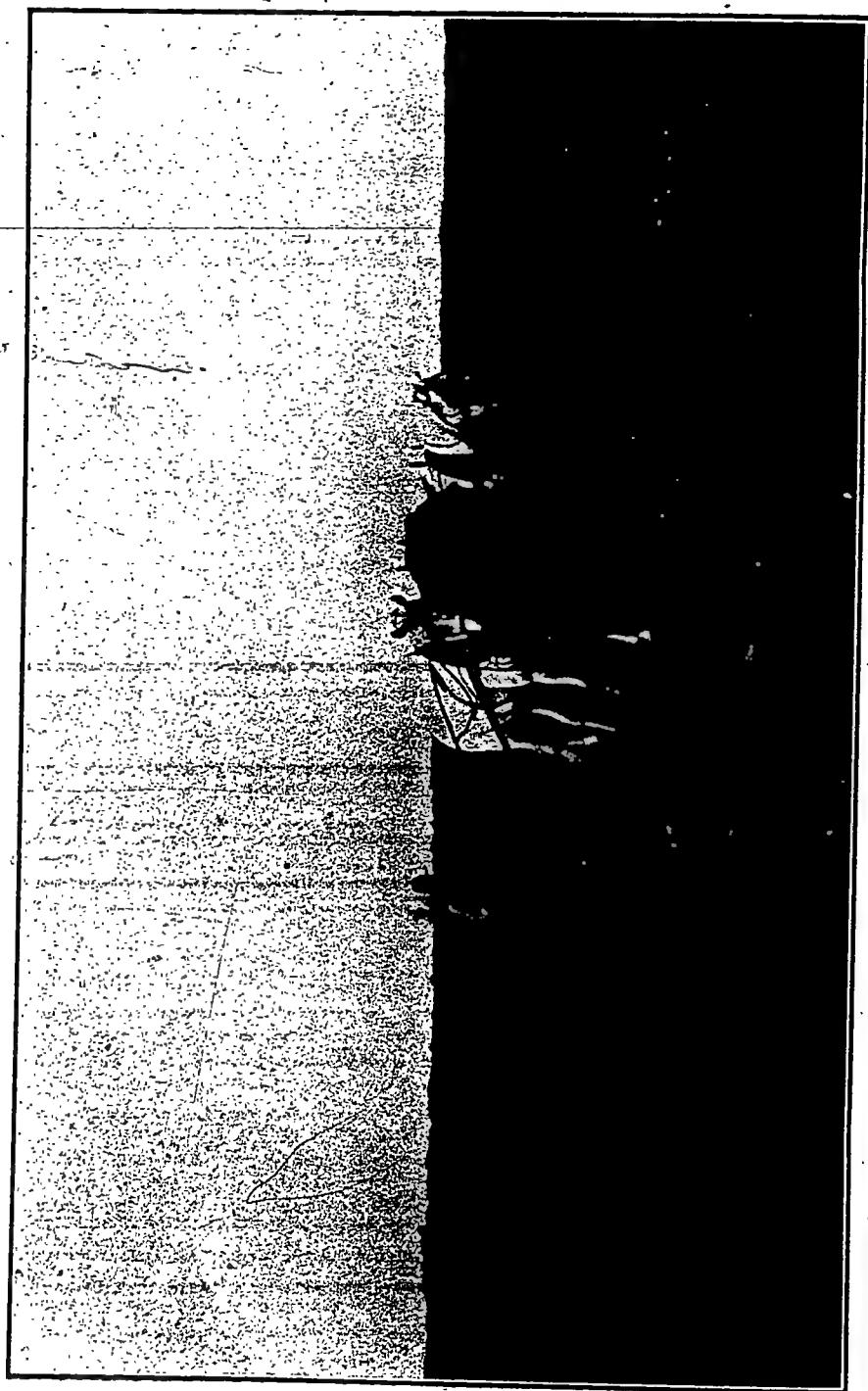
The Stock and Dairy of August 15th, 1903, says:

"The quality of Northwest Canadian range cattle is a surprise to anyone who has not previously visited that section. These cattle sell for export at \$45 to \$50 per head at the home range, and as it costs very little to raise these cattle the profits are large.

"In connection with the last item it might be mentioned that several large Texas ranchers have during the last year each shipped from five to ten thousand head of stock from their ranges in Texas and New Mexico into the Canadian Northwest. These cattle travel by rail and are all on ranches in Assiniboia."

The Manitoba Free Press in its issue of October 7th, 1903, says:

"Nothing in regard to the development of Western Canada is more striking than the inrush of American farmers to till its fertile prairies. This movement is one of the most notable of modern times, and is of very recent growth. Eight years ago the number of Americans who came to Canada with the intention of residing in the Dominion



BREAKING PRAIRIE IN ALBERTA.

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was less than fifty. In the last fiscal year there were nearly 50,000. Most of these new arrivals have ample capital, and practically all are farmers skilled in modern agricultural methods. The unqualified success achieved by the pioneers of this movement has been largely instrumental in its growth, and must result in its extension to still larger proportions. American farmers can sell their lands at high prices and can come to Canada and get better and more fertile land at from one-twentieth to one-quarter the cost. This is, in brief, the reason of the 'invasion.'

In the August number (1903) of the American Review of Reviews appears an article on "Migration to Western Canada," the following extracts are made:

"Why do they 'trek?' This is a question which many of my fellow-countrymen in the United States are now asking with regard to the stream of emigrants from the Republic to the Dominion of Canada. But yesterday the stream flowed the other way, and the people of Canada trooped over to the United States, thousands of them, every year.

"Now the trek is to the north; the 'balance of trade' is with the Canadians. It is not through any antipathy to American institutions that these hardy sons of the soil—for the emigrants are notably the best type of agriculturists—go forth to take up new homes in the sparsely settled great land of the North.

"The man who leaves the United States for Canada goes to a land equally free, and more free, in all that affects the lives of ordinary individuals. The Canadians have the system of decimal currency; and they have their township councils, local legislatures, and central system of government; the chief and almost only difference being the executive, which, in Canada, as in Great Britain, is a responsible cabinet with ministers having seats in Parliament, and amenable to the representatives of the people as a whole, and not simply to the chief magistrate.

"Social and industrial reasons alone dictate the emigration. The desire of the emigrants is to better themselves. It is conceded that undeveloped Canada at present offers the best opportunity for the enterprising capitalist and the poor man willing to work.

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"The settlement of Canada's vast vacant lands is, nevertheless, barely begun. The possibilities are great, the outlook captivating to an adventurous American. Take Manitoba as an object lesson. It has within its bounds 47,332,840 acres of which 6,329,000 are lakes and 1,300,000 in timber reserves, leaving 25,000,000 acres of cultivable land. Although last year only 2,952,002 acres of this territory was under crop, so great was the yield of wheat, barley, oats and other crops in the Province and neighboring Territories that the railways were blocked for months, and every available means of transit by land and water are yet busily engaged in carrying the products of the phenomenal harvests to the world's markets.

"Now in the United States when even railroad lands bring big prices in the open market, the temptation which such a country as is here described offers to the progressive American farmer is very great. If he has money he can buy a good improved prairie farm in Western Canada for very much less than his own holding will bring. If he has a wealth of grown boys, his advantages are much greater, and by united effort they can double their holdings by the yield of their labor in two or three years. I have been over the territory, and have met with numerous instances of success in this regard. So the Yankee is trekking.

#### **WHAT THE SETTLERS FIND.**

"Within the last year the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, which has 16,000,000 acres of choice territory under its control, raised the price of much of its land from \$3 to \$5 an acre, but this has not prevented the company from more than doubling its land sales in the last six months. At the present rate, ten years will not have elapsed before all of its vast land grant has been disposed of, and probably well settled. The Yankees cross a boundary line which is largely imaginary, and find a vast country with abundance of the very best grain-growing, cattle-raising, butter-and-cheese-making land for the taking up, if Government territory, and for a mere song, if the property of others. They find a land with a bracing, health-promoting climate just as enjoyable as to climatic conditions as the tier of States along its southern border, and withal conducing to longevity. With men, indeed, it is as with animals and cereals, the farther north

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they can be raised in comfort the better the quality, the more robust they are. Then, the fuel question has been solved, even for the Canadian prairie settlers. Over 65,000 square miles of coal lands, much of them under Government control, are known to exist in the area named. Newcomers from the United States find, too, that Canada is a country with institutions like our own, and with perfect security to life and property everywhere. Let me note that \$40,000 was spent by the Canadian authorities in tracking and bringing to justice a murderer who waylaid and killed two citizens of the United States who were coming out of the Yukon Territory."

Professor Thomas Shaw, of Minnesota University, having made a trip through Western Canada, has this to say:

"Nearly all of the prairie Province of Manitoba can be brought under cultivation, although probably not one-third of its surface has been laid open by the plow. Assiniboia to the west is a grain and stock country. Saskatchewan to the north of Assiniboia has high adaptation for the same. This also may be said of Alberta to the west, and of Athabasca to the north. In these provinces lies what may be termed a grain-growing and stock-producing empire, the resources of which have been but little drawn upon comparatively. When it is called to mind that even in the Peace River Country in Athabasca, and several hundreds of miles north of the Canadian boundary, wheat was grown which won a premium at the World's Fair in 1893, the capabilities of this country in wheat production looms up more brightly than even the brilliant Northern Lights of the land that lies toward the pole. Much of the region under consideration is adapted to growing both grain and stock, but certain areas, especially toward the mountain, are only adapted to ranching, except where irrigation will yet be introduced. The adaptation of the country for wheat production is of a high character. The cool nights that usually characterize the ripening season are eminently

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favorable to the filling of the grain, and to the securing of a plump berry, consequently large yields. The crop this year (1901) is a magnificent one. Many farmers grow only grain, but those who do succeed as well in growing oats and barley as in growing wheat, hence these foods for stock should always be abundant. Some grow cattle mainly, and others combine the two. The last named, of course, is doubtless the safest of the three during a long course of years, that is to say, where such farming is practicable.

"I have no hesitation in saying that the average of quality in cattle is higher than the average of cattle in Minnesota, unless in the dairy classes. This opinion is not reached rashly, nor without ample opportunity for investigation. I spent three long days in the showing at Winnipeg, making the awards in the beef classes. As a result of what came before me, I question if any of our States, single handed, could make such a showing in cattle. It was my privilege to make the awards at the several shows at Qu' Appelle, Regina, and Wolsley, and at all of these fairs were evidences of the fact that much careful attention is given to the improvement of the stock.

"Several reasons may be assigned for the good quality of the stock. In the first place the quality of the grass is good. In the second place, many of the settlers came from Ontario and had been schooled as to the value of good stock before going West. In the third place, the railroads and the Government have taken a deep interest in making it less difficult and costly to the farmers to secure good males."

The Milwaukee Sentinel in speaking of the Canadian exhibit at Milwaukee said:

"The wheat, with straw as bright as burnished gold, oats, barley, and other grains, the straw of which is equally bright, and with long heads solidly filled with perfect grain; the flax, many varieties of grass and clover; the vetches, or wild peas, great bunches of tender foliage thickly intermingled with pods filled with the most nutritious peas, making a combination of forage upon which thousands of cattle live through the winters, with no attention from the herds-men, and coming out in the spring as fat as butter, ready for market; potatoes, fresh from the rich soil of the Northwest, like blocks



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of wood, yet only partially grown to maturity; beautiful heads of cabbage, almost as hard as rocks; great heads of cauliflower, white as the driven snow, and other vegetables in profusion, fresh from the fields of Manitoba, Assiniboia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, and the exhibit of golden dairy and creamery butter, factory and pure cream cheese, all combine to hold the almost bewildered attention of thousands of visitors. A venerable veteran of the plow said:

"If I were a young man, with such opportunities within my reach as are offered in the Canadian Northwest, I would make all possible haste to get a plow into the rich soil of these fertile prairies and would soon be reaping the fruition of my labors in 40-bushel-to-the-acre wheat and in herds of the finest cattle the world ever saw. I believe that region is the very acme of God's best gifts to man in the soil and climate, and in health, wealth, and comfort-giving opportunities, upon the face of the earth to-day."

The following is from the Toronto Globe:

"The wonder is not that Americans are now coming in large numbers, but that for so many years they did not come. We heard in Canada of the rush for Oklahoma, and it seemed strange to us that men who were so land-hungry knew or cared nothing of the millions of acres in Canada, which at that time were almost going begging. To-day the wonder is not that 100,000 people are coming into Canada, but that they have been so long coming. A million people might come in a year, and the immigration would hardly be in proportion to the size of the country and the opportunities it presents to settlers. The people who are now coming in are well off, accustomed to a high standard of living, and to spend money freely."

Hon. George E. Foster, ex-minister of Finance, has recently made a tour through Northwest Canada. He said:

"Everywhere I found prosperity and plenty. In no place did I find poor crops of wheat, and in many cases were there bountiful crops. I have not met a man who has had solid ground for dissatisfaction. Cheerfulness and an abiding confidence that plenty will always reign in the land is the tone of all. Settlers are pouring into every district. These are only the forerunners of many more.

"Of course the appreciation in the price of land is somewhat sur-

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prising our own people, but these values appear to be well based and bear no relation to what may be called a boom. The man from Iowa has lived through all conditions of western uncultivated prairie to tilled land worth from \$40 to \$100 per acre. He finds here soil equally as good if not better, with productive power much greater, and reasons easily that a higher range of prices is bound to follow cultivation.

"Looking for causes of boom which would have bad effect," continued Mr. Foster, "I think here they are exceedingly few in number. Now, I believe, seed time and harvest are as uniformly certain in this country as in any other. Transportation facilities during the past fifteen years have been getting better, and the network of rail-ways is spreading farther west and farther north. We are getting in large numbers American agriculturists, and if these were the kind of people who did not know their business, we would have one cause of boom with bad effect. But the man who has gone through the agricultural campaign in the Northwest States of the Union is not that kind, and that is the man who is coming across the line. He is best fitted to take immediate hold and work under the conditions in our own Northwest. As sure, therefore, as the ocean tides have their sweep, so certain is the influx from the congested districts to the south of us. Their want is our harvest. They will, from what I have seen of them, not only make good farmers but good citizens."

Prof. D. A. Kent, of the State Agricultural College, at Ames, Iowa, who has been investigating Northwest Canada, has this to say:

"The wheatfields that I have seen present one vast unbroken landscape of wheat shocks, extending beyond the range of vision in every direction, and continuing for miles upon miles on either side of the railroad tracks. Within the past week I have seen thousands of acres, bearing shocks of wheat worth more than the present selling prices of the lands on which they stand. There is no section of country in North America containing more available land to the square mile than the northwestern section of Manitoba and the Territories. The lustre of the straw, the plumpness of the berry, and the luxuriant growth show that nature has done her perfect work.

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### **VITAL POINTS OF EXCELLENCE.**

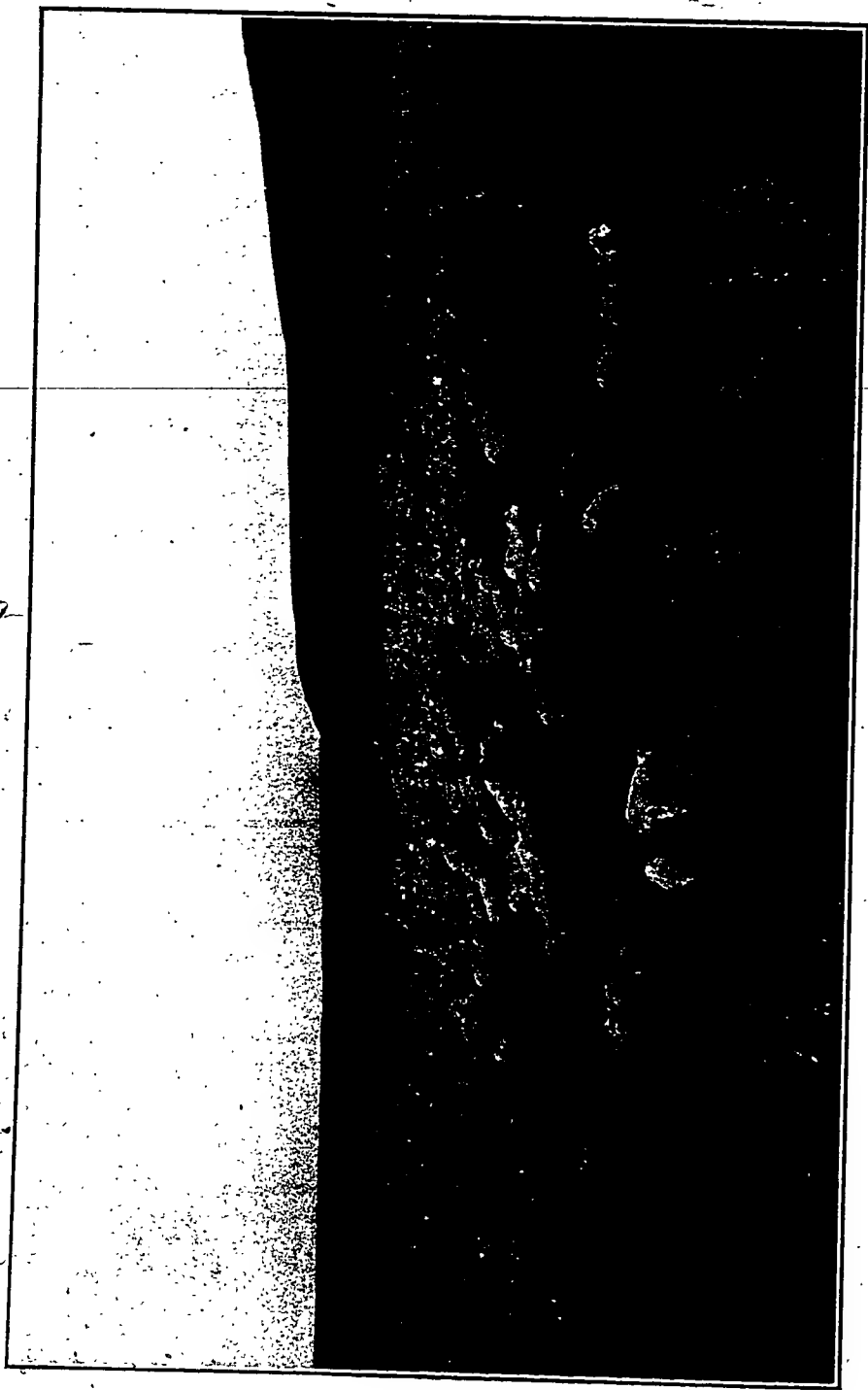
"The soil seems to be perfectly balanced in the elements of plant food. Hence there is no abnormal development in the structure of the various plants that go to make up the standard crops. The woody matter in the leaf and stem of all the crops is perfectly organized, so that the grain is able to resist the storm, and stand in the field and wait for the harvester, and then stand in the shock and wait for the thresher. These points are of vital importance to us in the States. Our crops of small grain, owing to the intense summer heat, and the unbalanced relation of the rare elements of plant nutrition, possesses a brittle straw, that goes down flat when our thunderstorms burst on the fields, or kinkle down as soon as ripe, and then spoil in the shock if there is very much rain, before stacking or threshing. When we compare the great valley of the Mississippi with the valleys of the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan rivers we must conclude at once that the former is the great corn field and the latter the great wheat field of North America.

### **NO NATIONAL DIFFERENCES.**

"There is no difference between the people of the United States and those of Canada, when the population of the respective countries is taken as a whole. The two nations will dwell together as contented and happy as two Christian neighbors at a country road crossing. The world will soon need all the United States corn and all the Canadian wheat at good prices, and these two cereals will make two streams of commerce that will flow to the East, as harmonious as the rivers of the continent flow to the sea."

A staff correspondent of the Chicago Tribune wrote, in July, 1903:

"The American invasion of Canada is no mere figure of speech. The tide of immigration now sweeping into the Northwest Territories is a movement of population comparable only to the great waves which for four generations swept the States from the Atlantic to the Rockies. The United States becomes for the first time a country of emigrants as well as immigrants, and is giving her northern neighbors experienced farmers, intelligent, trained in western



RANCHING SCENE IN ALBERTA.

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agriculture, good citizens, the thrifty, progressive sons of the men who turned the raw prairies into an agricultural empire, and who now seek new homes with a patrimony of money and experience which their fathers lacked."

The Saturday Evening Post (Philadelphia) says:

"A new nation is being born under our very face and eyes. Things are shaping faster in Canada than most of us here in the United States realize; indeed, faster than Canada herself realizes. The Northwest of Canada is rapidly filling up with a new life from Eastern Canada and from our own Northwest. Farmers in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and the Dakotas are selling their valuable farms and are moving, with their families and farming implements and live stock, up into this great harvest field, and are receiving a most generous welcome."

After making a tour of inspection of the Northwest Territories, the editor of the Wisconsin Agriculturist said:

"Within the borders of Northern Alberta is a practically illimitable area of fertile land, well timbered and well watered. The surface of the country is gently undulating, and through the center of the District the Saskatchewan river flows, from one to two hundred feet below the level. Wood and prairie alternate irregularly. In some parts there are plains free from timber and in others great areas of woods composed of large trees. The soil consists of a layer of from one to three feet of black vegetable mould, with little or no mixture of sand or gravel. It is peculiar to this section of the country that the black mould is as deep on the knolls and ridges as it is in the hollows. With a soil of such depth and fertility, it is not wonderful that in ordinarily good seasons a large yield of oats to the acre has not been uncommon, sixty to seventy-five bushels, averaging forty pounds to the bushel, being an ordinary yield; that barley will yield sixty bushels and wheat over forty, while potatoes of from two to three pounds' weight are not a rarity. Of course, these yields have not been attained every year, nor in any year by every farmer, but they have been attained, and prove that the capacity is in the soil if the tillage is given to bring it out.

"There is a varied and nutritive pasture during a long season in

## **LANDS FROM \$6 TO \$20 AN ACRE**

### **According to Location and Improvements**

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summer; there is an abundant supply of hay procurable for winter feeding, and an abundant and universally distributed water supply. The climate is clear, equable, and healthful, which makes this a pleasant country to live in. There are very few summer or winter storms, and no severe ones. Blizzards and wind storms are unknown. As a consequence, a fine class of cattle can be raised very cheaply and with small danger of loss."

The Indiana Farmer (Indianapolis), in its issue of July 25th, 1903, says:

"The developments of recent years have shown that extending far into Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, there is an area of millions of acres adapted to the growing of the finest wheat in the world, and of this immense area only a small portion, relatively speaking, has as yet been turned by the plough. All things considered, we look upon this region as one of great promise. We do not see how it can fail to become one of the most prosperous regions in the world; and that in the near future."

In speaking of the Edmonton District, the editor of the Farmers' Call (Quincy, Ill.) says:

"We were strongly reminded of the famous Mendon Prairie in Western Illinois. The farming country about Edmonton differs from the open prairie in that it is slightly rolling and is not destitute of timber, giving ample wood for fuel, building, and fencing. The soil is a rich, black loam, almost altogether free from stones. Springs, creeks, and small lakes abound. There is a rich growth of grass, such as makes Northern Alberta an ideal cattle-raising district. Oats and barley do exceptionally well, the former running from forty to forty-five pounds to the bushel. That wheat can be successfully grown here is proved by the number of local grist mills running day and night, grinding the wheat of this district to supply home consumption."

"Agricultural chemists who speak with authority," says the Springfield (Mass.) Republican, "declare that even the black earth of central Russia, hitherto considered the richest soil in the world, must yield the palm to the rich, deep, black soils of Manitoba and the

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Northwest Territories. The very qualities and chemical ingredients needed for the production of the finest wheat are possessed in their highest state by these soils. The air is dry and healthful. Fuel is cheap. In Alberta, Assiniboia, and Saskatchewan, the farmers have but to drive to the open coal banks along the Saskatchewan river and fill their wagons.

"The American who crosses from the States into Canada finds little or nothing to remind him that he has passed from a republic to a monarchy, or the colony of a monarchy. He is hampered by no more numerous restrictions; if anything, by less. The things by which men are rated are the same—honesty, ability, and the willingness to work hard."

J. Binkley, in a letter to the Jacksonian, a paper published in Wooston, Ohio, said

"In Northern Alberta we find excellent soil, a deep, black sandy loam with substrata of sand and clay. Here I helped to thresh 300 bushels of No. 1 wheat from five acres and 42 rods, and 128 bushels of oats from one acre, that weighed 45 pounds to the bushel. Fine Alsike clover, 22 inches high, timothy 5 feet 6 inches high, cut four tons per acre; 53 bushels of hull-less barley per acre. Here I saw two-year-old steers weigh 1,400 pounds, and they never had a pound of grain. Seven hundred were purchased from one man that averaged 1,400; they were all exported, and brought the seller \$66 per head. He informed me that they had cost him \$7.60 per head. The manager of the Calgary fair appointed me on the committee of weighers to weigh vegetables. Here are some of the weights: Cabbages, 46 pounds; potatoes, 4 pounds; sugar beets, 28 pounds, etc. A word about the climate. I consider it excellent. Old settlers tell me that they have 344 days of all day sunshine. Winter sets in about November 15th. Thirty degrees is a strong average, but the absence of wind, and dryness of atmosphere make 30 degrees much pleasanter than zero here with the fluctuations and dampness. The farmer is through his wheat seeding by April 15th. What are you doing in Ohio on April 15th? Now, my poor brother tenant farmer, this is an honest setting forth of the facts. Briefly, why tarry longer and grow poorer every year, when you can get this beautiful

## **LANDS FROM \$6 TO \$20 AN ACRE According to Location and Improvements**

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and bountiful country, and own your own 160 acres, and all for a dollar bill?"

Rev. Leo. Gaetz, D. D., who was compelled to quit the ministry on account of failing health, settled on the present site of the town of Red Deer. He was the first white man to locate in the district. He testified before the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization. He described the district as "the garden of Alberta, a country pre-eminently suited to mixed farming, and is a well-wooded and well-watered country. So far as water is concerned, I am glad to think that the indications are that there will be no need to mention irrigation, at least in Northern Alberta.

We have those magnificent water courses, mountain streams, and also creeks and springs. Even at a very high, rolling point on the prairie there are flowing out of the sides of the hills and in the coulees, springs of water that remain open the year round. I have never known a solitary instance, in that section of the country, where a man had to dig more than fifteen to thirty feet to have at hand a well of the purest and best water. . . . It does not take any very great skill to raise cattle, which at twenty-eight or thirty months old will dress without an ounce of grain 650 to 700 pounds of beef, or a three-year-old that will dress 800 to 850 pounds. I am speaking of what I have seen, and am testifying to what I know by personal experience. In farming, even a novice like myself in average years can grow crops of grain—oats from fifty to seventy-five bushels to the acre, and weighing from forty-five to fifty pounds to the bushel; wheat from thirty-five to forty bushels to the acre, and weighing from sixty-two to sixty-four pounds per bushel; black barley, thirty-five to forty bushels to the acre, weighing from sixty to sixty-eight pounds to the bushel. We have grown 400 bushels of potatoes and 700 bushels of turnips to the acre. I may say that I have seen greater things than these, but I am not taking what is phenomenal, under very exceptional and favorable circumstances, but what I believe the average farmer, with average care and application, can realize five years out of six. I have known yields of eighty-three bushels to the acre of Welcome oats, and I have seen ninety bushels per acre grown at Red Deer. . . . I have this to



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say in all truth and candor: I have closely examined into the matter, and I don't know a spot on earth, either south or north of the 49th parallel, where I would rather take my chances in the industry of mixed farming. . . . There are millions of acres of deep soils in the various sections of the Red Deer country that are entirely unoccupied."

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The following is a communication from F. E. Wilkins, Esq., an old resident of the town of Red Deer in Alberta:

Red Deer, Alberta, N. W. T. of Canada, May 2, 1904.

Having been a dweller within the Red Deer District for just fifteen years, and having been asked to state my views regarding the agricultural possibilities and promise for home-seekers in this region, I shall endeavor to set forth, as nearly as may be without prejudice, the conditions, advantages and drawbacks of this portion of what was once the "Great Lone Land," as they have impressed themselves upon me.

Speaking generally, the soil is a black, sandy loam of greater or less depth, upon a subsoil of clay, or sometimes gravel, and is of a high fertility, as is made evident, to the eye by the luxuriant growth of grasses, vetches and shrubs with which it is everywhere covered in its virgin state.

Experiment so far has indicated that, as regards the growing of wheat, the winter wheat is perhaps the best adapted to the conditions, although good samples of spring wheat are often produced. But in cereals, the grains in which this region excels are oats, barley and rye, which make good growth in all varieties of season, and are large producers, both as to quality and bulk. Fodder grasses such as brome, timothy and rye grass are quite successful, and all kinds of peas do well, in fact the wild pea vine, or vetch, is indigenous, and of luxuriant growth. Roots, such as potatoes, turnips, beets and mangolds, thrive, and give, with intelligent cultivation, large crops; and all the ordinary garden vegetables which are usually produced in a northern latitude, such as onions, radish, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, rhubarb, etc., are in every garden.

This District is well watered with creeks, lakes, ponds and springs, while well-water may usually be had at from fifteen to

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thirty feet; and, ordinarily, the rainfall is quite sufficient for all the needs of agriculture; in fact, the precipitation during the past five seasons has been so far in excess of the needful, that we have sometimes wished for less, as in the comparatively newly settled condition of the country, with roads in many cases yet to build, traveling has been much impeded; this, however, being an adverse condition readily remedied. During the ten years prior to 1899, the seasons were drier and brighter than in the past five years, with long periods of warm, growing weather, and much less rain; and in some of the seasons during the first-named period, the crops would have been the better of more rain than occurred. I cannot say, however, that I have ever known an actual drouth to have existed, or of a total failure of crop, where good farming was practiced.

We are here, about 3,000 feet above sea level, and in the nature of things, great and sometimes sudden variations of temperature in consequence occur, both in summer and winter. The summers are comparatively short, this being compensated in the season of growth, by the long hours of sunshine which are given to a northern latitude. The winters may be described as long, but are not always cold, although in some years, the ground is practically frost-bound and snow-covered from November to April; and, for periods of two or three days at a time, the thermometer will drop away below zero, and occasionally register 30 degrees to 40 degrees below. There is so little of this extreme cold, however, and there is so large a proportion, even in what are considered cold winters, of bright, clear, still weather, with the thermometer at about 10 degrees to 30 degrees above zero, that the occasional cold snap is easily endured, and sometimes a chinook wind will take most of the snow, which never, in any year, lies deeper, on the level, than about twenty inches.

The severest winter here need not terrify the settler, as the country is well timbered in most parts, and in addition to the stores of wood for fuel, and for use in building, a large portion of the district is underlaid with inexhaustible deposits of a semi-bituminous coal, which is excellent for all domestic purposes.

I have, in the foregoing, tried to describe the possibilities pre-

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sented here for agriculture, so far as plant growth is concerned; I would say, however, that this country is pre-eminently a stock-growing, dairying and mixed-farming region. The luxuriant natural pasturage, and the clear air and cool dewy nights make for great dairy production, and horses, cattle, sheep and hogs all thrive with ordinary care and attention; the size and condition in the spring of straight-grass-fed steers often evoking favorable comment from newcomers.

I may say, in conclusion, that, having seen the pioneer settlement of the Territory of Dakota in the early eighties, and being, therefore, in a position to intelligently compare the conditions here existing for the settler to face, with the conditions which met those who first undertook to create from the virgin wilderness what are today the great commonwealths of the two Dakotas, I believe this district offers to the settler with small capital, by far the greater natural advantages, with no more, if as many, hindrances to success.

FRANCIS E. WILKINS.

Mr. T. D. Barnett, a resident of the Red Deer District, writes: "I came from Iowa to the Red Deer District in 1900, and must say that I have never yet regretted coming here. The soil is, generally speaking, good, being a clay loam of considerable depth, and of great fertility, covered by a strong growth of natural pasturage of excellent quality. The district is well watered with creeks, springs and lakes, and there are clumps here and there of spruce and poplar timber, which not only give the country a park-like appearance, but are very valuable to the settler who comes here, possessed of only limited capital, and who cannot afford to spend much money at first in building material. The cereals which are usually produced in a northern latitude grow well here, and sometimes with good farming, produce surprising records. All kinds of roots flourish, our timothy and brome grass take kindly to the soil. The climate is, of course, one of great ranges of temperature, the winters usually having their proportion of zero weather, and sometimes far below, but the dry air and absence of wind prevent the cold from being felt to the same extent as in lower and damper regions. The summers are



VEGETABLES FROM ALBERTA.

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mostly bright and warm during the day, with cool nights, although the past one or two seasons have been very wet."

Henry Evans writes as follows: "As a settler in the Red Deer District of five years standing, having come here in the fall of 1899 from Redwood county, Minnesota, I wish to say that from my observation and experience in the period referred to, I would take this country to be eminently adapted to mixed farming. The soil is a clay loam, usually, alternated occasionally with stretches of a warmer, sandier loam, which supports an excellent quality of natural pasturage and is readily susceptible to the introduction and successful cultivation of many of the fodder grasses, while all the cereals usually grown in a northern latitude are grown here with success. The soil is also extremely favorable to the growth of roots, such as potatoes, beets and turnips. As regards the climate, it is necessarily somewhat variable, as could be expected at such an altitude (3,000 feet), and the extremes of temperature are, of course, great; the winters, however, while sometimes cold, are healthy, and the extreme dryness of the atmosphere and absence of wind, make the climate altogether a pleasant one to most. I regard the winters of this region as being hard to beat, taking them all around, and judged from the standpoint of one who has experienced the winters of Minnesota and Missouri, Michigan and Indiana."

Stephen Wilson, President of the Red Deer Agricultural Society, writes: "In answer to your request for my opinion of Alberta, I beg to state, that I came here in April, 1885, with no capital. I was in and near Calgary for nine years, and at and near Red Deer for the last ten years. I have 320 acres of as good land as there is in this district. I have about 115 acres under cultivation, 5 head of horses and 70 head of cattle, some of them pure bred Short-horns, and nearly everything in the way of implements required on a well equipped farm. I cannot say that it is at present a suitable country for men to come to with no capital, but I do not believe a man with a few hundred dollars can find a better country than this, even if he can find the equal of it, for mixed farming, and I would strongly recommend any one wishing to go into mixed farming with limited means, to try it."

## **LANDS FROM \$6 TO \$20. AN ACRE**

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#### **CITIES AND TOWNS.**

The principal cities and towns of North Alberta are Calgary, Edmonton, Strathcona, Didsbury, Olds, Bowden, Innisfail, Penhold, Red Deer, Lacombe, Wetaskiwin, Ponoka and LaDuc.

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#### **CALGARY.**

The city of Calgary is known as the "Sand Stone City." It is beautifully located at the junction of the Bow and Elbow Rivers and at the point where the Canadian Pacific Railway enters the Rocky Mountain region. It has about eight thousand people and its present growth is very rapid and substantial. It is the "port of entry," so to speak, of the Northwest Territories. The prospect is fair for it to become a city of twenty thousand inhabitants within the next five years.

#### **EDMONTON AND STRATHCONA.**

Edmonton and Strathcona are the twin cities of the far Northwest. One is situated on the north bank and the other on the south bank of the Saskatchewan River. Edmonton is destined to become a railroad center. It is the present terminus of the Calgary & Edmonton branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the Canadian Northern Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway will build their roads to it. It is beautifully located and is the center of an exceedingly rich farming and ranching country. Its growth in the past two or three years has been marvelous, and it promises to be within a few years a city of twenty or twenty-five thousand people.

#### **TOWNS.**

All of the towns mentioned are comparatively new, but substantial buildings are being constructed in all of them, and there is every indication of a permanent and healthy growth. They are all surrounded by lands of the best quality, and, as the immigration to the country will doubtless be very great, it is not unreasonable to expect that all, or a majority of them, will have within five years populations ranging from two to five thousand. The Canadian Pacific Railway will build this year (1904) branches from Lacombe and Wetaskiwin east, a distance of twenty-five miles.

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**GENERAL INFORMATION.**

**CUSTOMS—FREE ENTRIES.**

The following is an extract from the customs tariff of Canada, specifying the articles that can be so entered:

Settlers' Effects, viz.—Wearing apparel, household furniture, books, implements and tools of trade, occupation, or employment; guns; musical instruments, domestic sewing machines, typewriters, live stock, bicycles, carts and other vehicles, and agricultural implements in use by the settler for at least six months before his removal to Canada; not to include machinery or articles imported for use in any manufacturing establishment or for sale; also books, pictures, family plate or furniture, personal effects, and heirlooms left by bequest; provided, that any dutiable articles entered as settlers' effects may not be so entered unless brought with the settler on his first arrival, and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of without payment of duty until after twelve months' actual use in Canada; provided also, that under regulations made by the Comptroller of Customs, live stock, when imported into Manitoba or the Northwest Territories by intending settler, shall be free until otherwise ordered by the Governor in Council.

Settlers arriving from the United States are allowed to enter duty free stock in the following proportions: One animal of neat stock or horses for each ten acres of land purchased or otherwise secured under homestead entry, up to 160 acres, and one sheep for each acre so secured. Customs duties paid on animals brought in excess of this proportion will be refunded for the number applicable to an additional holding of 160 acres, when taken up.

The settler will be required to fill up a form (which will be supplied him by the customs officer on application) giving description, value, etc., of goods and articles he wishes to be allowed to bring in free of duty. He will also be required to take the following oath:

I,.....do hereby solemnly make oath and say, that all the goods and articles hereinbefore mentioned are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, entitled to free entry as settlers' effects, under the tariff of duties of customs now in force, and all of them have been owned and in actual use by myself for at

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least six months before removal to Canada; and that none of the goods or articles shown in this entry have been imported as merchandise or for any use in manufacturing establishment, or for sale, and that I intend becoming a permanent settler within the Dominion of Canada.

Sworn before me at.....day of.....190..

The following oath shall be made by intending settlers when importing live stock into Manitoba or the Northwest Territories free of duty:

I, .....do solemnly swear that I am now moving into Manitoba (or the Northwest Territories) with the intention of becoming a settler therein, and that the live stock enumerated and described in the entry hereunto attached is intended for my own use on the farm which I am about to occupy (or cultivate), and not for sale or speculative purposes, nor for the use of any other person or persons whomsoever.

#### **QUARANTINE OF SETTLERS' CATTLE.**

Settlers' cattle, when accompanied by certificates of health, to be admitted without detention; when not so accompanied, they must be inspected. Inspectors may subject any cattle showing symptoms of tuberculosis to the tuberculin test before allowing them to enter. Any cattle found tuberculous to be returned to the United States or killed without indemnity. Sheep, for breeding and feeding purposes, may be admitted subject to inspection at port of entry, and must be accompanied by a certificate, signed by a Government inspector, that sheep scab has not existed in the district in which they have been fed for six months preceding the date of importation. If disease is discovered to exist in them, they may be returned or slaughtered. Swine may be admitted, when forming part of settlers' effects, when accompanied by a certificate that swine plague or hog cholera has not existed in the district whence they came for six months preceding the date of shipment; when not accompanied by such certificate, they must be subject to inspection at port of entry. If found diseased, to be slaughtered, without compensation.



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### **STOP-OVER PRIVILEGES.**

Intending settlers are given the privilege of stopping over at stations where they wish to inspect land. Application should be made to the conductor before reaching station where stop-over is required.

### **FUEL FOR SETTLERS.**

Any homesteader having no timber on his homestead may, on application to the Local Agent of Dominion Lands, get a permit to cut what he requires for building material, fencing, and fuel for use on his homestead.

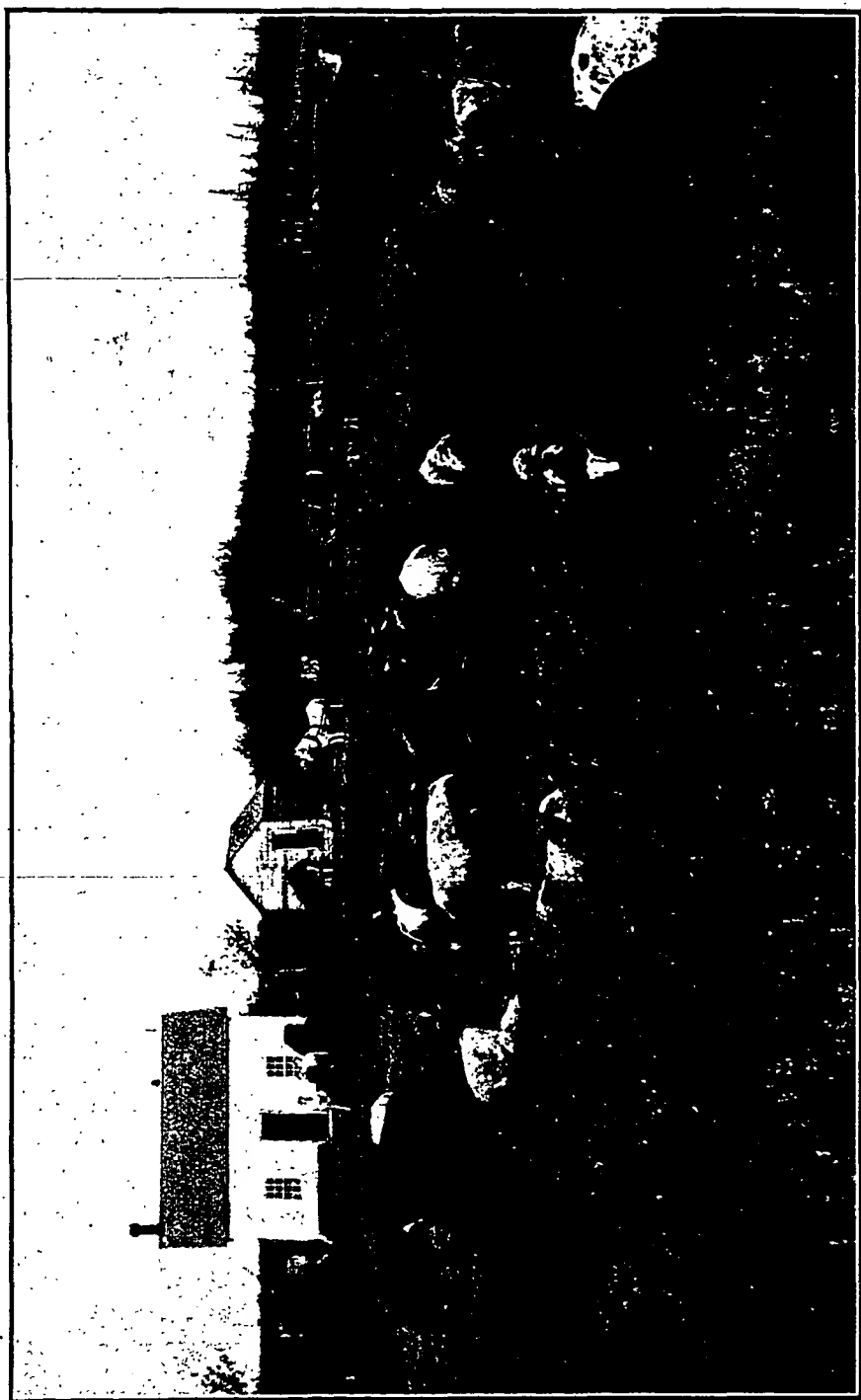
### **INFORMATION AND ADVICE.**

Can be freely obtained from the following:

Jas. A. Smart, Deputy Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada.  
W. D. Scott, Superintendent of Immigration, Ottawa, Canada.  
J. Obed Smith, Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

### **UNITED STATES AGENTS**

M. V. McInnes, No. 2 Avenue Theatre Block, Detroit, Michigan.  
James Grieve, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.  
J. S. Crawford, 214 W. Ninth Street, Kansas City, Missouri.  
E. T. Holmes, 315 Jackson Street, St. Paul, Minnesota.  
T. O. Currie, Room 12B, Callahan Building, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.  
C. J. Broughton, 430 Quincy Building, Chicago, Illinois.  
W. V. Bennett, 801 New York Life Building, Omaha, Nebraska.  
W. H. Rogers, Box 116, Watertown, South Dakota.  
C. Pilling, 317 Kittson Avenue, Grand Forks, North Dakota.  
J. C. Duncan, Room 6, Big Four Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.  
H. M. Williams, Room 20, Law Building, Toledo, Ohio.  
C. O. Swanson, Scandinavian Immigration Agent, Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada.  
R. A. Burris, Port Arthur, Ontario, Canada.  
C. A. Laurier, Marquette, Michigan.  
J. M. MacLachlan, 307 Third St., Wausau, Wisconsin.  
Benj. Davies, Great Falls, Montana.



A RANCH IN ALBERTA.

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### **GREAT BRITAIN.**

W. T. R. Preston, 11 and 12 Charing Cross, London, England.  
A. F. Jury, Old Castle Bldg., Liverpool, England.  
~~John Webster, 14 Westmorland St., Dublin, Ireland.~~  
J. Bruce Walker, 52 St. Enoch Sq., Glasgow, Scotland.  
H. M. Murray, Western Mail Building, Cardiff, Wales.  
Edward O'Kelly, 13 Queens Square, Belfast, Ireland.  
G. H. Mitchell, Newton Chambers, 43 Cannon. Birmingham. Eng-  
land.

### **HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.**

Any even numbered section Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories, excepting eight and twenty-six, which has not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or for other purposes, may be homesteaded upon by any person who is the sole head of a family or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

### **ENTRY.**

Entry may be made personally at the local land office for the district in which the land to be taken is situate, or if the homesteader desires, he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, or the local agent for the district in which the land is situate, receive authority for some one to make entry for him. A fee of \$10 is charged for the homestead entry.

### **HOMESTEAD DUTIES.**

Under the present law homestead duties must be performed in one of the following ways, namely:—

1. By at least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years.

2. If the father (or the mother, if the father is deceased) of any person who is eligible to make a homestead entry resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for by such person as a homestead, the requirements of the law as to residence prior to

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obtaining patent may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.

3. If a settler has obtained a patent for his first homestead, or a certificate for the issue of such patent countersigned in the manner prescribed by the Dominion Lands Act, and has obtained entry for a second homestead, the requirements of this Act as to residence prior to obtaining patent may be satisfied by residence upon the first homestead.

4. If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements of the law as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land.

#### **APPLICATION FOR PATENT.**

Should be made at the end of the three years before the Local Agent, Sub-Agent, or the Homestead Inspector. Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of his intention to do so.

#### **BUILDING MATERIALS.**

Should the farmer have no timber on his homestead or other lands he can, by making application to the Dominion Land Agent in the locality, obtain a permit to cut on the Government lands free of charge the following:

(1) 3,000 lineal feet of building timber measuring no more than 12 inches at the butt.

(2) 400 roofing poles.

(3) 2,000 fencing rails and 500 fence posts, 7 feet long and not exceeding 5 inches in diameter at the small end.

(4) 30 cords of wood for fuel.

#### **DOMINION LAND OFFICES.**

Calgary District—J. R. Sutherland, Agent, Calgary.

Edmonton District—A. G. Harrison, Agent, Edmonton.

Lethbridge District—A. J. Fraser, Agent, Lethbridge.

Red Deer District—W. H. Cottingham, Agent, Red Deer.

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### CONCLUSION.

The foregoing is believed to be a fair representation of existing conditions in the Northwest Territories, and especially in Alberta. *The picture is not overdrawn. The suggestion is made and here urged, that interested parties should visit Alberta before investing there or elsewhere.* The best time to come is the latter part of August or during the months of September and October. The crops will then have matured and visitors will have the opportunity to see for themselves what the grass of the Northwest Territories will do for cattle and horses.

The North Alberta Land Company (Ltd.) has branch offices in Calgary, Carstairs, Didsbury, Olds, Bowden, Innisfail, Lacombe, Panoka, Wetaskiwin, LaDuč, Edmonton and St. Louis, Missouri. The registered or home office of the company will be at Red Deer, Alberta. The company will have for sale lands located near the line of railroad leading from Calgary to Edmonton (a distance of 200 miles), and on the contemplated branch railroads which will be built this year (1904) from Lacombe and Wetaskiwin east, a distance of twenty-five miles. The prices will range from six to twenty dollars per acre, depending upon location and the character of the improvements. Any communication addressed to the company at any of the offices mentioned will receive prompt attention, and the local managers at the various cities and towns will take pleasure in showing the country to prospective purchasers.

### HOW TO GO.

The Soo Line, which is operated from St. Paul to Portal connects at the latter place with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Persons visiting Alberta, who live south or east of St. Paul, should see their local station agent and get the cheapest rate to St. Paul. The Soo Line issue home-seekers' tickets (low rate from St. Paul to Portal), and by applying to the St. Louis office of the North Alberta Land Company (817 Fullerton Bldg.), arrangements will be made with the local immigration agent of the Dominion Government for a certificate, which, on presentation to the station agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Portal, will entitle the holder to purchase a round trip ticket to the point of his destination at the rate of one cent per mile—stop-over privileges both ways.

## **LANDS FROM \$6 TO \$20 AN ACRE**

### **According to Location and Improvements**

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James W. Christie has sent to the North Alberta Land Co. the following letter:

Ponoka, Alberta, May 16th, 1904

~~To the North Alberta Land Co., St. Louis, Missouri:~~

In reply to your inquiry concerning Northern Alberta as a field for emigration, I can only reply and give my experience as a practical farmer and stock raiser. I came here from Nebraska with my family in the year 1900, and purchased a half section of Canadian Pacific Railway land and filed on a homestead four miles southeast of Ponoka. We had lived twenty years in Fillmore County, Nebraska, and had become tired of the hot winds and uncertainty of crops, hence we came here practically broken in fortune to commence to build a home in this northern country. We started with three horses and twenty head of young cows, and the first year here we harvested twenty acres of oats that I had hired broken the year before. My oats yielded 60 bushels per acre and weighed 44 pounds to the bushel the next year. We had 40 acres under crop that yielded fully as well as the previous crop. Last fall I had a sale of surplus cattle, which were the natural increase of the 20 head we started with, with the result that I sold \$1,100 worth of cattle and had 15 head left. We have always fattened enough pork for our own use and our eggs and butter have paid our grocery bills. I have since secured another quarter section of land, so now we are the proud possessors of a section of as rich and productive land as lies out of doors, and it is our intention to devote a large acreage of land to winter wheat this coming fall, as experiments in older portions of Alberta prove conclusively that winter wheat is a sure crop here, and where tried the yield has been from 40 to 55 bushels per acre. Fall rye also does well here and frequently yields as high as 35 bushels per acre. We have also found the climate more agreeable than the climate of Nebraska, for, while the mercury may at times go lower here in winter, yet there is an absence of winds and blizzards which makes all the difference in favor of Alberta. We have a good public school system, a splendid banking system, and Americans feel just as much at home under Canadian political institutions as under their own, with this exception, Canadian methods are slow, and political parties

## **THE NORTH ALBERTA LAND CO., Limited**

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are not accustomed to the severe criticism that prevails in the States. But as this government has invited us to come here and has promised us political equality, we are going to see to it that our rights as citizens are properly respected. So, to sum the whole thing up, I have found the natural conditions of Alberta very favorable to home-builders; the soil is rich and productive; the climate is bracing and healthful; there is an abundance of timber and running streams; also an abundance of fish and fowl game. Taxation is low, and any man who is possessed of the right kind of grit can get along here, providing he has a few hundred dollars capital to start with and is industrious and attends strictly to his own business, and lets whisky alone. But the man who has been in every state in the Union and made a failure everywhere he went is here too, and kicking just as hard as he did down there. He is still looking for a country where a man can get a living without work, where crops and fruits grow spontaneously. You will find him in town every time you go either playing pool or holding down a dry goods box in front of some store, but to the man of good, plain, horse-sense, who pursues his course in a methodical manner, this country will furnish him with a good home and a competency also for his declining years.

Respectfully,

JAMES W. CHRISTIE,

Ponoka, Alberta.

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Jasper Seifert, of Ponoka, Alberta, writes as follows:

Ponoka, Alberta, May 1st, 1904.

To the North Alberta Land Co., St. Louis.

Having been asked for a letter from me stating my views of Alberta, I take pleasure in stating that I came from Nebraska in 1899, to hunt a location. I had lived in Nebraska as long as I could stand its failures of crops caused by droughts and hot winds. I was a renter and had to start here with little means and a family to support. The outlook was not the best, but with a strong will we undertook it. I bought a section of land on time and went to work. I have been fairly successful. I own my land now, have thirty head

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of cattle, eight head of horses, besides a number of hogs. I have never had a failure of crops here, and in some of the most favorable years had large crops; in fact, better than I ever raised in the States. We have a very good climate, no great extremes of either heat or cold. The winters have been the best I ever experienced. No blizzards, tornadoes or bad electrical storms. I have no interest in writing this letter. My land is not for sale. I believe my prospects are good for old age, and I have made better provision for my children by coming here. We have good schools and every convenience for a new country. Have a good creamery in Ponoka. This is a good dairy country, producing butter of superior quality. There is no reason why a man cannot succeed in this country, providing he has grit and has sober habits, and is satisfied with his lot. I am sincerely yours,

JASPER SEIFERT.

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The following communication was received from J. J. Gregory of Lacombe, Alberta.

Lacombe, District of Alberta, N. W. T.

May 10th, 1904.

The North Alberta Land Co.

Dear Sirs: In reply to a request for information of this northern part of Alberta as a field of settlement, would say that it is possible some who are fairly well fixed, and whose lives are pretty well run, should not come to Alberta; but for the rich man who enjoys novelty and speculation, the young man setting out in life and the tenant farmer, no mistake can be made in coming to this country. There is lots of bright, sunny climate, at the same time occasional seasons of considerable wet and cold, but, notwithstanding, in my experience of eleven years, there has been but one season wherein there was anything like a crop failure; then the failure was not universal. Last season there was a good deal of rain and cold, and some of the old-timers pronounced it the worst season in twenty years, but still there was lots of good grain. Many of the farmers are sowing their own seed grain and lots of the oats weighed 40 lbs.



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to the bushel. A failure of pasturage and hay, (prairie grass), is unknown. Seeding is now about over. As a dairying country, it is unsurpassed. The pasturage is abundant, rich and luxuriant, and the nights generally cool. With these conditions the milk in Alberta tests higher in butter fat and casein and produces more cheese and butter to the pound of milk than in any other province of the dominion.

It is admitted on all sides that, with the certainty of big yields of grain for the feeding of dairy stock, young stock, pigs and poultry, any one starting in on these lines of mixed farming is on the sure road to success; as many have so made it a success, and the writer is among the number. Farming lands and other lands—town lots, etc.—have increased rapidly in value.

The flourishing towns on the C. & E. Railway would, I think, speak louder than most anything else in the praise of the country. Our town of Lacombe has developed, we might say, in eight years, from nothing to a town of 1,500 population. Everything that is needed can be bought here, and a market is at hand for everything the farmer has to sell. As significant of country development, there are five agricultural implement agencies. Implements, carriages and wagons are brought in by the carload, and go out among the farmers almost as rapidly. Large quantities of fat cattle, hogs, oats, butter and eggs are constantly shipped from Lacombe, and all along the line of railway. Sincerely yours, J. J. GREGORY.

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To the North Alberta Land Co., St. Louis.

Ponoka lies 130 miles north of Calgary on the C. & E. R. R. in the heart of one of the best mixed farming regions of Alberta. It has a population of about 600, and all kinds of business represented. We boast of a fine public school building, which would be a credit to towns much larger. A creamery is in course of construction. We have two large saw mills that receive their logs from Pigeon and Battle Lakes, distant 35 miles; logs are floated down Battle

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River to Ponoka. It is estimated the mills have in sight timber for twenty years. Ponoka is surrounded by a good farming country, of prairie and woodland. We have an excellent soil, plenty of grasses which can be utilized for dairy and stock raising.

Ponoka is in the heart of an American settlement, which means that we have people of enterprise, who take kindly to the Canadian government, which is trying to make them feel at home. Lands can be had at reasonable figures, taking into consideration the conveniences we have over those so far from railroads. In no part of Alberta is the chance for investment better than here. It will be but a few years until our lands will command high figures. The great West is now full and overflowing; land values are at the highest point for investment; so in the natural course they must seek other fields for investment, and the great tide must come to the Northwest Territories where we have the same class of people and conditions much the same. We invite the people to come and see for themselves, take no chances. We do not wish to magnify the greatness of the country, but simply to state things as settlers will find them.

EDMUND CHRISTIE.

Ponoka, Alberta, May 1st, 1904.

The following statement has been received by the North Alberta Land Co. from F. Schluntz and H. Thede, Iowa farmers, who visited Alberta this spring (1904):

We, the undersigned, land-seekers from Iowa, arrived at Ponoka, Alberta, and have made a close inspection of the country, and are highly pleased with the land and general conditions. We find a superior stock and mixed farming country, well watered, with running streams, fine pasturage, with plenty of timber, which is one of the essential things in home-building. We expect to invest here, for the reason that we are well suited and consider it the best place to invest money there is on the continent.

F. SCHLUNTZ.  
H. THEDE.